



NEWS



INAUGURATION of AVEDISIAN SCHOOL

XLVIII 4
OCT • NOV • DEC
2014



Grand Opening of Avedisian School in Yerevan.

AMAA NEWS

is a publication of
The Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652
Tel: (201) 265-2607; Fax: (201) 265-6015
E-mail: amaa@amaa.org
Website: www.amaa.org

The AMAA is a tax-exempt, not for profit organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3)

Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO
Levon Filian, West Coast Executive Director
David Aynejian, Director of Finance

OFFICERS

Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D., President
Nazareth Darakjian, M.D., Vice President
Thomas Momjian, Esq., Recording Secretary
Arsine Phillips, Esq., Recording Secretary
Nurhan Helvacian, Ph.D., Treasurer
Anita Buchakjian, Assistant Treasurer

EDITORIAL BOARD

Zaven Khanjian, Editor in Chief
Levon Filian, Editor
Louisa Janbazian, Associate Editor, Art Director
Jane Wenning, Contributor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In order to keep our mailing list up to date, please send all corrections, along with the old address, to:
AMAA NEWS
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652
E-mail: amaanews@amaa.org

DESIGN

Caspianseal.com

NEW COVER DESIGN

Yearbook, Inc.

PRINTING

Printsolutions.info
Englewood, NJ
Tel: (201) 567-9622

Join us on Facebook (AMAA)
Follow us on Twitter (@AMAAInc)

Editorial Message

New Beginnings And A Timeless Assertion

"For we are saved by HOPE..." Romans 8:24

Zaven Khanjian

Another year is about to vanish in the annals of history. Another era will be behind us soon. A subject well munched over the ages, full of ideas, sentiments, opinions and contemplations. I have no desire to embellish the rhetoric on the past. We are at the threshold of *NEW Beginnings*, a new day, a new dawn, a new tomorrow.

In October 2014, the AMAA inaugurated the NEW Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center and the Krikor and Beatrice Bilezikian Building in the impoverished Malatya - Sepastia section of Yerevan. The new state of the art compound was the first LEED certified, "Green" structure in the region. Nothing was spared by the benefactors and the AMAA to realize a dream which came to constitute the perfect reciprocal gift to the genius Mesrob Mashdots, on the anniversary of the creation of the Armenian alphabet and the translation of the Bible. A *NEW Beginning* for hundreds of vibrant, dreamful and spirited young Armenian children in the homeland, with promises of a better tomorrow for all, glowing in their eyes.

In October 2014, I had the opportunity and privilege of meeting representatives of Syrian Armenians in Yerevan, Armenia. Thousands have taken refuge in the Motherland from the ravished grounds of the burning and killing fields of Syria. Thousands are still besieged in the embattled grounds of war torn Syria, looking for a *NEW Beginning* at home or in the homeland. At the dawn of a new year, nothing will deter the AMAA from our active pursuit of creative opportunities for a *NEW Beginning* for them all.

In September 2014, I embarked on my humble service at the AMAA. A *NEW Beginning* for me and the AMAA. As I submerge in my mission work, I continue on seeking the guidance of the Lord and the blessing of your prayers to walk the path of the founders with steadfast determination and an energized will to perpetuate the mission with an added zeal for a brighter future to our nation, mankind and generations to come.

In October 2014, the AMAA celebrated its 95th anniversary and conducted its Annual Meeting culminating in a Banquet honoring its past Presidents, who over the years have "kept telling the story" of the promise of and the right to a *NEW Beginning* for our people and mankind.

The blessed birth of Christ the Lord which is upon us all, plows a furrow for everyone, promising a *NEW Beginning* that graces us with the blessing of the hope for salvation.

The common denominator in all above is the soaring spirit of HOPE. *NEW Beginnings* are the fountain of hope without which there is no purpose in life. HOPE for a better tomorrow, HOPE for a brighter future, HOPE for survival, HOPE for salvation, HOPE for a *NEW Beginning* for you and me, for our nation, our Syrian brethren and for mankind.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ՀԱՅՐԱՅԻՆԻՔ ԵՎ ՍԱՐԻ ԵՒ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԾՆՈՒՆԴ





AVEDISIAN SCHOOL

Opens Doors for New School Year

On Wednesday, October 1, on a beautiful morning in Yerevan, the new Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) opened its doors to welcome a large crowd of excited students, teachers, parents and friends.

With the love and generosity of the Avedisian and Bilezikian families, and many other generous donors, the AMAA was able to construct this state-of-the art campus to house students from preschool through twelfth grade.

While continuing to offer first-class education for children from the economically disadvantaged neighborhood of Malatya-Sebastia, the campus will serve as a Community Center where civic groups can meet, athletic teams can practice and courses can be offered for adults to develop employment skills.

In time, colleges and universities will be invited to offer courses for credit during the summer. ☐





The Grand Opening of the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center

On Wednesday, October 8, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) celebrated the Grand Opening of the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center.

Participants at the opening ceremony included: **Serzh Sargsyan**, President of the Republic of Armenia; **Armen Ashotyan**, Minister of Education and Science; **Bradley Busetto**, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative; **Hranush**

Hakobyan, RA Minister of Diaspora; national and local government officials; members of the **Avedisian** and **Bilezikian** families; **Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian**, President of Haigazian University; **Joseph Zeronian, Ed. D.**, AMAA President; **Zaven Khanjian**, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, **Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian**, Senior Pastor of Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA), **Harout Nercessian**, AMAA Representative in Armenia, **Rev. René Léonian**, former AMAA Representative in Armenia and Senior Pastor of ECA, and hundreds of local and international guests.

The first ribbon cutting ceremony was at the **Bilezikian Building**, by the members of the Bilezikian family, followed by the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Avedisian School.

Following a beautiful symbolic Armenian traditional dance, **Melanya Geghamyan**, Principal of the School, conducted a tour of the building for President Sargsyan. He was very impressed and inquired about several aspects of the LEED certification and the facilities, our student body, and our plans for the future.

In his remarks, Mr. Khanjian stated, "1,600 years ago, Saint Mesrob's invention

of the Armenian Alphabet and its direct and significant impact of translating the Bible into Armenian is commemorated in the month of October. Could there be a more appropriate, worthy, sacred and wise expression of gratitude to reciprocate that immortal gift to the Armenian nation than the realization of the dream of the Avedisians and Bilezikians, with the implementation of this beacon of education, a newly constructed, modern and magnificent school."

"Today, with the official dedication of this sacred structure, it is the heartfelt wishes of the Avedisian and Bilezikian families, joined with members and supporters of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, that these wonderful children, born in our sacred Motherland, following the example of the immortal martyred poet, spark their young impressionable minds with the perpetual light of learning provided at the Avedisian School and the Bilezikian Building," stated Mr. Khanjian, who also thanked President Sargsyan for honoring the Grand Opening and this historical and memorable day by his participation.

There were two special components of the day. The first was President Sargsyan bestowing The Presidential Medal of Movses Khorenatsi on Edward Avedisian for his outstanding achievements in the spheres of culture, art, literature, education, social sciences and sports. President Sargsyan thanked all those who through their active participation, contribution and input move Armenia forward and make it a better place for its people.

The second special component of the day was when Pamela Avedisian offered some very touching remarks in Armenian and proceeded to play two beautiful classical



Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia, tours the Avedisian School and Community Center during the Grand Opening.



Doreen and Charles Bilezikian cut the ribbon at the Bilezikian Building.



President Sargsyan cuts the bread during the Bread and Salt Ceremony.



Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian with Father Vartan Navasartian, Director of the Christian Education Department of Holy Etchmiadzin.



L to R: Ronald Altoon, Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq. and Edward Avedisian.

pieces on the piano she dedicated to the School in honor of her parents.

The day also included individual ribbon cutting ceremonies of centers and classrooms after which the guests toured the facilities.

At the evening banquet, Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D., President of the AMAA Board of Directors, addressed more than 220 guests who attended a lavish dinner. He offered sincere thanks to the entire Board, to the donors of the School and to the other fine work of the AMAA.

The PAROS Chamber Choir, comprised of mostly disabled musicians who perform while seated in their wheelchairs, provided a stunning presentation of a medley of sacred music and Komidas songs.



President Serzh Sargsyan addresses the guests at the opening ceremony.

The historical and memorable day ended with all attendees leaving with a feeling of awe,



Pamela Avedisian plays on the piano she dedicated to the School.

gratitude and thankfulness to the benefactors and AMAA for this magnanimous achievement. □



PAROS Chamber Choir presents a medley of sacred music and Komidas songs.



Zaven Khanjian presents Edward Avedisian a rendering of the Avedisian School.



Zaven Khanjian addresses the guests.



Avedisian School and Community Center Grand Opening Celebratory Banquet.



Dr. Joseph Zeronian addresses the guests.

ԽՈՐԵՆ ԵՎ ՇՈՈՏԽԱՆԻԿ ԱՎԵԾԻՍԻԱՆՆԵՐ
ԴՊՐՈՅ ԵՎ ՀԱՄԱՅՆՔԱՅԻՆ ԿԵՆՏՐՈՆ

Գործողությանը՝
ԱՄԵՐԻԿԱՅԻ ՀԱՅ ԱՒԵՏԱՐԱՆՉԱԿԱՆ
ԸՆԿԵՐԱԿՑՈՒԹԻՒՆ




**KHOREN AND SHOOSHANIG AVEDISIAN
SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY CENTER**

Operated by:
**ARMENIAN MISSIONARY
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

President Sargsyan Awards Edward Avedisian with Movses Khorenatsi Presidential Medal

On Wednesday, October 8, on the occasion of the Grand Opening of the AMAA's Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center, Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia, bestowed the Presidential Medal of Movses Khorenatsi to Edward Avedisian for his outstanding achievements in the spheres of culture, art, literature, education, social sciences and sports. Mr. Sargsyan thanked Mr. Avedisian and all those who through their active participation, contribution and input move Armenia forward and make it a better place for its people.

In his remarks, Mr. Avedisian thanked the President for this honor, recalling the story of his mother who dreamt of this school and expressed his deep appreciation to see the dream realized for the benefit of the children of Armenia. □



AMAA Benefactor Charles Bilezikian and Family Visit Armenia's Minister of Diaspora

On Friday, October 10, Hranush Hakobyan, RA Minister of Diaspora, welcomed the visit of AMAA Benefactors Charles and Doreen Bilezikian and their family, accompanied by the AMAA's Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian and Board member Jeanmarie Papelian.

The Minister praised the charitable activities of the Bilezikians in Armenia and Karabagh, especially in constructing elementary schools in Yerevan and Shushi, and renovating the second floor of Markarian Hospital in Yerevan. Hranush Hakobyan highlighted the role of the Bilezikians in rebuilding the Motherland and spoke with them about the future projects of the Ministry.

Taking into consideration the unique philanthropic activities of the Bilezikians for the advancement of educational and cultural projects in Armenia, the Minister awarded Charles Bilezikian with the Ministry's "Boghos Nubar" Medal of Honor, and presented a framed Armenian rug to Doreen Bilezikian. □



Doreen Bilezikian



L to R: Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq., Zaven Khanjian, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan, Charles and Doreen Bilezikian.



RA Minister of Diaspora with Charles Bilezikian.

RA Minister of Defense, Seyran Ohanyan Visits Avedisian School

On Thursday, October 9, RA Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan visited the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center. Mr. Ohanyan was greeted at the entrance of the School by AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian, School benefactor Edward Avedisian, AMAA Armenia Representative Harout Nercessian, School Principal Melanya Geghamyan, and by the students and the teachers.

The Minister toured the School and got acquainted with the facilities, in particular the laboratory and the military classes. The

Minister promised to furnish the military classroom with all the necessities to offer the students the full program. While visiting the library, the Minister left a few books that he had authored.

The students presented a special program for the Minister and the guests. Mr. Ohanyan expressed his best wishes and thanked the AMAA and Mr. Avedisian for this state-of-the-art school and for all the work that AMAA realizes in the Motherland.

The Minister encouraged the students to study well and be good citizens of their country. □



RA Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanyan (on left) tours the School accompanied by Edward Avedisian, Melanya Geghamyan, Harout Nercessian and Zaven Khanjian.



On October 6, AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian and Edward Avedisian were invited to "Desaget" Media Center for a press conference about the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center. The press conference was aired from "Gendron" and "Yergir Media" TV stations.

Green Roof Gardens at Avedisian School

The AMAA and the Armenia Tree Project (ATP) continue to expand their partnership with the Avedisian School. In addition to providing training to science teachers about conserving the environment, ATP's experts advised the construction and design team on the school's roof gardens, and assisted in preparing the landscape design. In October, ATP hosted supporters of the Avedisian School, including the Bilezikian family and Board member Jeanmarie Papelian, at its tree nursery in Karin. The visitors learned about ATP's container planting project, and saw over 350 trees and shrubs awaiting transportation to the Avedisian School and Community Center campus. The trees and shrubs were planted on campus in mid-October and the students are learning to assist in their care.



On October 3, Republic of Karabagh's former President Arkadi Ghougasyan visited the AMAA Center on Baghramyan Street to meet with AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian. Pictured L to R: Sona Khanjian, President Arkadi Ghougasyan and Zaven Khanjian.



On October 6, Maria Titizian of Civilnet met with Edward Avedisian and AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian for an interview at the AMAA Center in Yerevan.



Merdinian School

Awarded New Preschool Permits with Expanded Capacity

By HELEN HAIG

Our Merdinian School in Sherman Oaks, CA is growing . . . and for all the right reasons. In fact, most recently, our Principal Lina Arslanian was pleased to announce that our Preschool was awarded new permits that will increase capacity from 36 to 57 students – an increase of over 50%. Merdinian has responded to continuously increasing parent requests for registration by also adding another classroom for the Pre-K department.

First and foremost, it must be emphasized that, as our Preschool Director Marijan Kevorkian explains so well, "We help children learn social skills through the Word of God." The children have daily chapel and prayer time, and then throughout their day, they learn to apply what they have learned about their Christian faith. For example, when children get into conflicts, their teachers ask them what they think God would want them to do. The children learn, in age appropriate ways, that "Hands are for helping and not for hurting." They are taught how to use their "kind words."

Parents frequently praise the teachers' nurturing approach to preschool education. The Preschool faculty focuses on building trust with children so they can develop readiness to learn. The children learn to connect with a positive community at Merdinian, and they learn who they are in the context of a broader world -- American and Armenian. That sense of connectedness and trust is also nurtured through promotion of family values and the importance of growing and living closer and closer to God.

Parents also greatly appreciate the excellent communications with the Preschool Director and faculty. At the beginning of the year, parents are given the full year's curriculum, which, in addition to Christian and age appropriate academic education, includes Armenian. Parents also receive monthly reminders that include the list of songs children will learn and sing. Weekly lesson plans are

posted as well. In this way, Merdinian facilitates dialog between parents and children. Parents, knowing the details of curriculum, can discuss school with their children and can connect the school and home experiences. Merdinian promotes healthy home, school, and community experiences.

Parents are encouraged to talk with Merdinian faculty and staff any time. Parents also volunteer in a range of ways. Sometimes they even come into the classroom and tell children about their careers to help the children's growing awareness of the world around them and the values they need to embrace.

Our AMAA mission work includes the Biblical instruction to train up our children in the way they must live. God has blessed our efforts with a thriving Merdinian School and a highly qualified and dedicated faculty, staff, Principal and Board. We pray for God's continued blessings and our community's ongoing full support. It's all for the glory of God. □





Armenian Evangelical Secondary School of Anjar

Fundraisers to "Save Our School"

The Armenian Evangelical School in Anjar has been meeting the educational, cultural, physical, and spiritual needs of hundreds of Armenian students from preschool to high school in the all-Armenian town of Anjar. This year, the School has 230 students consisting of local students, over 70 boarding students

who come from poor families or are the children of Armenian Syrians, and the children of Armenian Syrian refugees, mostly from Kessab who have settled in Anjar.

To meet the financial challenges of the School, the AMAA organized several fundraising events. The first event was held on September 12, at the home of Ara and Lena Karkazian in Fresno, CA. Over 65 people

were present to enjoy warm fellowship and a great meal. They were alumni, friends, and supporters of Armenian Christian education. Rev. Raffi Messerlian, who had been both the Pastor of the church and the Principal of the School for 18 years, gave a report on the School's successes and financial needs. Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, challenged all to help the School with their prayers and financial support. On September 14, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church (FAPC) Missions Committee of Fresno held a luncheon for the benefit of the School. All who attended enjoyed the well-organized program with recitations, reflections, hymns, and Armenian songs.

On September 20, the LA alumni of the School held a dinner event at United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, to hear about the needs and challenges of the School. Over 60 people, alumni and friends, shared their experiences.

We are pleased to report that over \$40,000 was raised from these events.

We thank all those who participated in these memorable fundraising events and supported the School financially. Special thanks to Rev. Raffi Messerlian, from Anjar, Rev. John Melkonian the former Pastor



"Save Our School" Fundraising Event Committee of FAPC.

"Save Our School" Fundraising Event at the Home of Ara and Lena Karkazian in Fresno



"Save Our School" Fundraising Event at UACC



and Vice Principal, Rev. Greg Haroutunian and Rev. Mike Mekredijian from FAPC, the Missions Committee members, and the organizing committee members in Fresno, Rev. Ron Tovmassian of UACC and two generous anonymous donors.

For all those who are interested in supporting "Save Our School" in Anjar with their donations, please contact the AMAA West Coast office at 1101 N. Pacific Ave., Suite 301, Glendale, CA 91202, Tel: 818.937.9840 or visit the AMAA website at www.amaa.org. □

***Guests of
"Save Our School"
fundraising event
at UACC.***



Haigazian University Meetings and Fundraising Events in Los Angeles

During the months of September and November, the Board of Directors of Haigazian University (HU) and the HU Women's Auxiliary were busy organizing meetings and fundraising activities in the greater Los Angeles area. Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian and several Board members from Lebanon and the United States attended these events.

A retreat was held for a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees of Haigazian University at the home of Board Chair Dr. Ani Darakjian. The purpose of the retreat was to revisit the Mission and Vision statements of the University, to carry out an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the University and to develop a list of recommendations addressing the pressing issues that face the University. These goals were accomplished under the expert leadership of two of the Board members, Prof. Barkev Kassarian and Serge Buchakjian, two high level business consultants.

President Haidostian and several Board members also attended the Gala Banquet of



The subcommittee of Haigazian University Board of Trustees. L to R: Dr. Joseph Zeronian, Dr. Hasmig Baran, Dr. Ani Darakjian, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, Prof. Barkev Kassarian, Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, Serge Buchakjian and Hrair Mouradian.

the University of Southern California (USC) Armenian Institute which was held September 28 and had over 600 attendees. President

Haidostian met with some members of the Leadership Council of the USC Armenian Institute and with the President of the Uni-



Dr. Ani Darakjian and Levon Filian present a gift of appreciation to Margaret and David Mgrublian for their hospitality.



Fundraising dinner at the residence of David and Margaret Mgrublian.



Haigazian University Board of Trustees

versity of Southern California, the honoree of the evening, C. L. Max Nikias.

On September 29, President Haidostian gave a lecture/question and answer session on the topic of "Minorities in the Middle East." The lecture was held on the USC campus and was organized by the new Director of the USC Armenian Institute, Salpi Ghazarian. Over 100 students, faculty members, and members of the Armenian community were present. The President discussed important social, political and religious issues facing minorities in general and Armenians in particular, in the Middle East.

On the evening of September 29, a fundraiser was held for Haigazian University at the beautiful home of David and Margaret Mgrublian. The Mgrublians are well known philanthropists in the Los Angeles Armenian community and offered to host and underwrite the cost of this event after meeting with the AMAA West Coast Executive Director Levon Filian and hearing through him about Haigazian University. President Haidostian told a "bouquet of stories" about the opportunities

Haigazian provides to its Armenian and non-Armenian students as well as the challenges faced by the University. It was an informative and enjoyable evening for all who attended.

On November 14 and 15, the Haigazian University Board members held their meeting at UACC, Los Angeles, CA. On Sunday night, a joint AMAA/HU banquet was held at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Over 400 attended the event. On this special occasion, Dr. Mihran Agbabian and George R. Phillips, Esq. were honored for their dedication and love for AMAA and Haigazian University.

We take this opportunity to thank all

those who participated in the leadership retreat, attended the USC Gala Banquet, the seminar at USC, the fundraising event at the home of the Mgrublians, and the joint AMAA/HU Celebratory Banquet. □



Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian and Dr. Laurie Brand, USC Professor of International Relations, during the lecture/question and answer session at USC.

Dr. Mihran Agbabian and George R. Phillips, Esq. Honored at AMAA-Haigazian University Celebratory Banquet

By PHYLLIS HAMO

Excitement filled the ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel on November 15 when organizers and guests gathered to honor Dr. Mihran Agbabian and George R. Phillips, Esq. at the AMAA-Haigazian University Celebratory Banquet co-chaired by Joyce Abdulian and Ken Kevorkian. Prayers were offered, anthems and music were sung, videos were shown, and genuine tributes were paid to these two men who are champions of the AMAA, Haigazian University, and a myriad of worthy institutions within the Armenian Community. Both honorees are former AMAA Board Members.

The distinguished recipients were introduced, Mihran Agbabian by Savey Tufenkian and George Phillips by Joyce Philibosian Stein. Mrs. Tufenkian underscored Dr. Agbabian's efforts to help Armenia after the 1988 earthquake and charged everyone who travels to Armenia to visit the American University of Armenia (AUA). Dr. Agbabian, a distinguished graduate of the American University of Beirut, Cal Tech, and UC Berkeley, is an eminent authority in seismic engineering and the founding President and President Emeritus of AUA. He is also a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. This former Dean of Engineering at USC, and a past Vice President of the AMAA, recollected working with George Phillips in support of various organizations, large and small, and said he was "grateful to God and for the challenge to serve."

Mrs. Stein described George Phillips as a trusted friend and advisor and anticipated that his work "will continue to bear fruit." Mr. Phillips, a graduate of UCLA and UCLA Law School, and founder of the oldest Armenian law firm in Los Angeles, is a firm believer in education.

He was named the C & E Merdian School "Man of the Year" in 2007 and was also recognized as "Man of the Year" by the AGBU for his service to the Armenian Community in Southern California. He praised the AMAA, founded 96 years ago, and Haigazian University for their foundations of faith and spoke of the Christian values underscored at Haigazian University, stressing that "every person can make a difference through their actions." A Korean War veteran, Mr. Phillips, in his response, remembered the attack on Pearl Harbor when he was 13 and indicated that Armenian history seemed to be repeating itself from 100 years ago.

The honorees were presented with framed certificates by the co-chairs who had orchestrated a memorable event. Their supportive wives, Elizabeth Agbabian and Suzie Phillips, are founding/continuing members of the Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary LA and the AMAA Child and Orphan Care Committee.



L to R: George R. Phillips, Suzie Phillips, Elizabeth Agbabian and Dr. Mihran Agbabian.

The recently installed Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Zaven Khanjian, clearly remembered his family's arrival in the U.S. from the Middle East in 1979 as a direct result of war and unrest. He spoke compassionately about the AMAA and its "mission of rescue."

At the podium, West Coast AMAA Executive Director Levon Filian put it this way: "A good cause and a good committee results in complete success!"

Haigazian University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, who had traveled 7,000 miles from Beirut, paid tribute to the honorees and emphasized the importance of being positive examples to the world. He called Haigazian constructively unique and thanked Dr. Agbabian, Mr. Phillips, and everyone in the room for supporting Haigazian.

Arriving from Armenia just minutes before the banquet, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian brought regards from the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church and expressed his wholehearted congratulations to the worthy honorees and organizations.

The event raised more than \$400,000 to be divided equally by the AMAA and Haigazian University.

The printed program contained greetings from the co-chairs, biographies of the honorees, and congratulatory messages from Dr. Joseph Zeronian, President of the AMAA, who thanked "all those who are in attendance this evening," Dr. Ani Darakjian, Chair of the Haigazian University Board of Trustees, and the Trustees of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, plus the appreciation lists of sponsors, supporters, and committee members. □

AMAA Celebrates 95th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Banquet

The 95th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was held at the AMAA Headquarters in Paramus, NJ, on Saturday, October 18. Over 60 members attended the meeting including Board members, pastors, representatives of churches and mission committees, representatives of Armenian Evangelical Unions from around the world and delegates from affiliate groups. Numerous reports on AMAA's service ministries were presented by the AMAA Churches and Committees. According to the Treasurer's Report, during the 2013-14 fiscal year, nearly \$9,000,000 was distributed to support 140 projects in 24 countries around the world.

The AMAA general membership elected nine individuals to the Board by mail-in ballot. The following Board members were elected for the Class of 2017: Bryan Bedrosian, Anita Philibosian Buchakjian, Nazareth E. Darakjian, M.D., Louis Kurkjian, Vahe Nalbandian, Arsine Bedrosian Phillips, Esq., Ann Karagozian Sarafian, Ph.D., Hratch Sarkis and Eileen Chopourian Stephey, Ph.D.

In conjunction with the AMAA Annual Meeting, the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its meetings on October 16-17. Prayers were offered for members who were unable to attend due to the continuing turmoil in the Middle East.

On Saturday evening, the AMAA celebrated its 95th Anniversary and its rich history with the Annual Meeting Banquet, held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Fort Lee, NJ. About 150 guests attended the Banquet which had as its theme "Keep Telling the Story." Anita Buchakjian, Co-Chair of the Committee, welcomed everyone and introduced the Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Berj Gulleyan. The invocation was offered by Rev. Joel Mikaelian. During this festive occasion, five former AMAA Presidents, H. Steven Aharonian, M.D., George Bezirgianian, M.D., Samuel Hekemian, Albert Momjian, Esq., and Andrew Torigian, as well as

current President Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D. were recognized for their sacrificial services and leadership. Special recognition was also given to deceased Past Presidents John Keuhnelian, M.D. and George Philibosian, whose wives, Gladys and Alice, respectively, were present. Lucienne Aynilian, Co-Chair of the Committee, presented a gift to each honoree.

The guests were entertained by Soprano Shoushik Barsoumian, who has been performing in the United States and in Europe since 2010. Rev. George R. Carey, Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) World Outreach Director, was the Keynote Speaker. His message was one of encouragement to continue telling the story of Our Lord and Savior.

Newly appointed AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian recalled how for 95 years the AMAA has spread the Good News of the Bible all over the world and how pillars of faith have walked the path before us, responding positively to the call "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of my brothers, you have done it for me."

Mr. Khanjian added, "The AMAA is one of the world's leading organizations devoted to the global, spiritual and physical well-being of the Armenian nation. As its leadership, friends and supporters gather tonight, it is time for us

Cont'd on the following page...



Shoushik Barsoumian, soprano, performs at the Banquet.



The 95th Annual Meeting of the AMAA.



Installation of 2015 AMAA Board members and officers during Sunday Worship Service at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.



AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian addresses the guests at the Banquet.

AEWC 2014 Biennial Meeting

By **REV. DR. VAHAN H. TOOTIKIAN**, Executive Director, AEWC

The Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its 2014 Annual Meeting October 16-17 at the AMAA Headquarters in Paramus, New Jersey. Prior to the meeting, Executive Director Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian introduced the following new members: Rev. Ronald Tovmassian, Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA); Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, Acting Minister to the AEUNA; Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA; and Rev. Jacques Tchoghjian, in absentia, President of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France. Due to circumstances beyond their control, representatives of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Megrdoch Karagoezian and Rev. Haroutune Selimian, were unable to attend. The AEWC President, Rev. Joel Mikaelian warmly welcomed the Council members.

The Council received written and oral reports from President Rev. Joel Mikaelian, Treasurer, Dr. Nurhan Helvacian and the Executive Director Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian. The Council also received brief reports from the representatives of the five Unions and the two organizations comprising the AEWC. Of the many items and the issues discussed, the following were noteworthy:

1. Syrian Armenian Crisis

The deteriorating situation of the Armenian community in Syria was one of the focal points of the Council's discussions. The latest reports from the area were disturbing. The continuous violence of the terrorists, the indiscriminate destruction of property and human life, the economic instability, the displacement of people, and the atmosphere of fear and insecurity have devastated the Armenians in the country. The Council was informed about, and sharply condemned, the destruction of the Genocide Memorial Church



Front row L to R: Joyce Stein, Dr. Joseph Zeronian, Rev. Joel Mikaelian, Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Zaven Khanjian and Dr. Nurhan Helvacian. Back row L to R: Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, Rev. Ronald Tovmassian, Rev. Dr. Rene Leonian, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Rev. Garnik Tutikyan, Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian and Harout Nercessian.

in Der Zor, which housed the remains of the victims during the Genocide.

The Council praised the valiant stance of the Armenian Evangelical leaders in this crisis, Revs. Haroutune Selimian, Serop Megerditchian and other ministers in the area. It also discussed at great length the ways and means of helping the war-torn community. It remains united in its stand to sustain the at-risk communities in the region, particularly those in Syria. The AMAA has already launched a new and vigorous campaign for the relief of the Syrian Armenians. The Council

AMAA 95th Anniversary - Cont'd from the previous page...

to realize the dire circumstances our people are experiencing worldwide."

"We are, and have been for some time, in a National Disaster mode that has either been naively ignored or unwisely unrecognized. We are in the midst of the most seriously threatened time period in our modern history since the Genocide. The alarm bells are ringing and time is of the essence. We are called to realign our priorities and save what we can before it

is too late. It is our God graced duty and obligation to call upon the leadership of the Diaspora to take a serious collective look at the status quo, analyze the situation, gather our resources and draw a blue print of rescue and survival to save as much as we can. Such an attempt could be the best gift we can give ourselves on the Centennial of the Genocide. God has called on the AMAA to face this national and humanitarian challenge and assume a leadership role. I hope that we can positively answer the call."

On Sunday, October 19, members and guests joined The Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus for a special Worship Service. Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Interim Executive Director of the AMAA, brought the Armenian message, and Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA, gave the English message. Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian officiated the installation of the newly elected members of the Board of Directors and the newly appointed Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA. □

strongly urged the Armenian Evangelical constituency to participate in this latest campaign.

2. The AEWG Dialogue with the Holy See

The dialogue between the Armenian Evangelical World Council and the Holy See of Etchmiadzin continues. A written update was provided by the AEWG representative, Rev. Haroutune Selimian. There were some recommendations by AEWG for the next phase of the dialogue.

3. Bilingual Pictorial Book on the AEWG

Upon the request of the AEWG, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian is engaged in writing a book on the Armenian Evangelical World Council. He reported that he has already embarked upon the task and hopes to finish the book by mid-January 2015. He anticipates that the bilingual pictorial book will be approximately 350-370 pages. The book will highlight the important events and circumstances surrounding the rise, the development and the present status of AEWG. The Council resolved the following: *a. To thank Rev. Tootikian for writing the book; b. To have the book published jointly by the AEWG and the Armenian Heritage Committee of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit.*

4. Centennial Observance of the Armenian Genocide

The year 2015 is the Centennial Year of the Armenian Genocide. Throughout the year there will be various observances by the Armenian Evangelical churches both in Armenia and the Diaspora. It was reported that some major non-Armenian denominations are officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide and are planning to mark the Centennial observance. One such denomination is the Presbyterian Church (USA) which adopted the resolution to officially recognize the Genocide at its General Assembly in June 2014. It was also reported that the United Church of Christ is also planning to do the same.

The AEWG Centennial Committee reported some of its plans for the year 2015. It was decided to include Zaven

Khanjian of the AMAA on the Committee. The Council resolved the following: *a. On the occasion of the Centennial observances to hold a special Executive Committee Meeting in April 2015, in Yerevan, Armenia; b. To hold the Centennial commemorations in all Armenian Evangelical churches on either April 19 or April 26 Sundays; c. To urge all Armenian Evangelical churches to participate in the interchurch or community Centennial observances.*

5. Financial Aid to the Armenian Evangelical Unions of Armenia and Eurasia

The Council reiterated its April 28-29, 2014 resolution to help the Evangelical Unions of Armenia and Eurasia. Once again, it resolved to bring to the immediate attention of the AMAA the following urgent needs, namely: *a. To provide medical insurance to the pastors and religious workers of the Evangelical Church of Armenia, as well as to offer financial support to the retired pastor; b. To increase the financial support to the Armenian Evangelical churches in Eurasia, to enable them to carry out their ministry more effectively.*

It was resolved to appeal once again to the AMAA Board and ask them to consider and act upon these urgent requests.

6. Churches in Bulgaria and South America

An update about the Armenian Evangelical Union of Bulgaria and the three Armenian Evangelical churches in South America confirmed that contacts have been made with their leadership. The Council hopes that they will, in turn, respond to the invitation extended to them to seek membership in the family of the AEWG.

7. Elections

The biennial elections of AEWG resulted as follows: Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, President; Rev. Ronald Tovmassian, Vice President; Rev. Joel Mikaelian, Secretary; Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director, and Dr. Nurhan Helvacian, Treasurer. □

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Receives Gold Medal on His 55th Anniversary of Ordination

By **REV. SHANT BARSOUMIAN**

On the occasion of the 55th anniversary of his pastoral ministry and the publication of his 36th book, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian was honored at a special event held at the the Armenian Congregational Church (ACC) in Southfield, MI. On October 10, on the eve of the Feast of the Holy Translators, particular focus was given to Rev. Tootikian's body of written work, with all 36 books on display.

Minister, lecturer, administrator, scholar, prolific writer, and community leader, the Rev. Dr. Tootikian is a member of many religious, educational, and philanthropic organizations, and a recipient of numerous awards. Currently he is the Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council and the Minister Emeritus of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit.

Individuals from throughout the greater Detroit Armenian community were given an opportunity to share their testimonials about how Rev. Tootikian's works have impacted them and encouraged them throughout the years. His wisdom, insight, and skillful words through the whole spectrum of his publishing career have inspired so many in their spiritual lives as well as their cultural heritage, particularly in Armenian Christian history.

On this occasion, the Republic of Armenia's Ministry of Diaspora awarded Dr. Tootikian with the coveted "RA Ministry of Diaspora Gold Medal." This medal was given to him "in recognition of his notable services for Armenia-Diaspora partnership, and for his contributions to the strengthening of relations between Armenia and the Diaspora, as well as for his professional activities and his great contribution to the preservation of the Armenian identity."



Armenian Children's Milk Fund Celebrates Twenty Five Years of Service

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund, we want to share with everyone how it all started, thank the supporters, and challenge every reader to continue this great mission to help the most vulnerable population, the children in Armenia.

It was December 7, 1988, after the great earthquake had devastated Armenia, when Raffi Manjikian's father asked "Isn't there something you can do?" Raffi was challenged and determined to make a difference.

In February 1989, he went to Armenia as a member of a mental health response team to help the people cope with the epic disaster. He met Dr. Robert Hamparian, the Medical Director of the Children's Hospital #2 in Gyumri, who shared the needs for infant formula for the newborn children, and asked if Raffi could seek help from the United States.

In September, Raffi was in Boston to make a plea to a core group of supporters. Elaine Kasparian, Diana Monaco, and Helen Shushan rose from their seats and promised to take on the project. Here was the birth of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund. The first shipment of milk formula reached Ar-

menia in February 1990. Soon thereafter, in late spring, a second large shipment arrived in Armenia.

While in Armenia, Raffi met Rev. Movses Janbazian, the Executive Director of the AMAA, and shared the Milk Fund ministry. Rev. Janbazian passionately supported the program and made it part of the AMAA's ongoing ministry in Armenia. Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq., Chair of the Milk Fund, recalls how Movses had shared with her the experience he and his classmates had had in Anjar, drinking a glass of milk provided freely by missionaries.

In Raffi Manjikian's words, "The experience that I will always be most grateful for was to be in the company of such wonderful people within the community of supporters, volunteers in the United States and in Armenia and Karabagh associated with the Milk Fund. In addition to Elaine, Diana and Helen, the effort benefited from the work of countless volunteers, including Aetna Tashjian, Mike and Seta Kalajian, Dick and Cynthia Kazanjian, and the Fashjian, Kojoian, Ostayan, Shagoury and Aznoian families. Ann Korian, Margrit Atinizian, and Annie Balikian were amazing fundraisers, and Michele Simourian was our voice on the AMAA Board for years. The countless events - "Have Heart, Show You Care" teas, Navasart Dance Ensemble, the gala in which we honored Baroness Cox, the Church Hall events, the Taline concert, the Shoghig and Hoy Lari concerts, the briefing to the U.S. Congress to get funding for a Child Survival Project in 1992, the *Mission to Karabagh* in 1994 and numerous golf tournaments were part of the many times we joined together to gain support for the Milk Fund initiative."

A relationship and a friendship develops between the donors and the recipients of the milk. One such example is Lilit, from Vanadzor, a former recipient of infant formula, who was invited by her sponsor Jeanmarie to come to the United States and give her testimony at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Fund. She was a healthy, beautiful, young lady bound for university



Raffi Manjikian, with an injured child at the #2 Children's Hospital, Leninakan, (now Gyumri), 1989.



The Manjikian Family at the #2 Children's Hospital, Gyumri, July 2014 .

for higher education, and a heart of gold grateful for the support from the donors.

Let us learn from Raffi's enthusiasm for service and like him pass it onto the next generation, "During this recent trip to Armenia I was fortunate to be with three generations of my family; my mom who "showed me the way" and my sons with whom I shared so many stories of Armenia and the experiences I had, now had some context."

May our children never cry for want and may God give us strength to always be at the ready. □



The ruins of the old #2 Children's Hospital 25 years later, in Gyumri.

Meet the Milk Fund Babies!

On a recent visit to Yerevan, Milk Fund Chair Jeanmarie Papelian had the opportunity to meet some of the children being assisted by the Armenia Children's Milk Fund.

7 month old Datevik (photo on the left), laughs at a toy donated by Sonya Kalajian, owner of The Toy Shop of Westford, MA. Datevik's pediatrician referred her to the Milk Fund at one month old, when she was suffering from an intestinal infection. Datevik is the youngest of four children from Artashat. When her father learned that his wife was pregnant with Datevik, he left the family and has provided no support. Unable to make ends meet, Datevik's mother sent the other children – ages 10, 8 and 6 – to a government-run boarding school in Yerevan. She misses them terribly, but is relieved to know that they are warm and fed.



Little Edgar (photo on the right) came to the Aynilian Clinic with his mother and grandmother. Edgar was born prematurely and suffered from significant health problems, including issues with his palate which made it difficult for him to nurse. A doctor referred him to the Milk Fund. Today his health is much improved. Edgar lives with his extended family, six people in a two-room apartment in Yerevan. His father has a job in a bakery, but struggles to support the entire family. □



ACMF to Initiate Breastfeeding Education Program in 2015

Since 1989, the Armenian Children's Milk Fund has been helping to give Armenia's neediest infants a healthy start in life by providing infant formula. In 2015, the Milk Fund will expand its work to promote breastfeeding education to expectant mothers in Yerevan.

In October, a strategy meeting was held at the AMAA's Aynilian Clinic in Yerevan to discuss implementation of the program. Present were ACMF Chair and AMAA Board member Jeanmarie Papelian, Dr. Gohar Margaryan of the Aynilian Clinic, AMAA social workers Zemfira Smoyan and Christina Karapetyan, and renowned women's health expert Judy Norsigian. Ms. Norsigian is the longtime Executive Director of Our Bodies, Ourselves (OBOS) a nonprofit public interest organization based in Cambridge, MA that develops and promotes evidence-based information on girl's and women's reproductive health and sexuality.

The Clinic has an ultrasound machine, and Dr. Margaryan feels that she has a unique opportunity to support, inform and encourage breastfeeding when she sees women for prenatal ultrasounds. Many of the women who come into the Clinic are quite poor, and struggle to provide themselves and their babies with sufficient nutrition. Dr. Margaryan expects they will welcome information about the benefits of breastfeeding. As a first step in the educational program, Ms. Norsigian will assist ACMF to prepare an instructional booklet in Armenian with basic advice and information about breastfeeding. ACMF expects the first phase of this program to begin in the spring of 2015. □



Dr. Gohar Margaryan and Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq., ACMF Chair, enjoy a moment with 9-month old Edik, a Milk Fund beneficiary, as his mother looks on.



On November 2, Armenian Children's Milk Fund supporters braved an early season snowstorm to attend a fundraiser hosted by Mary Beth Sweeney at her lovely home in Andover, Massachusetts. Jewelry designer Gina Kovach of Studio G displayed her uniquely designed, quality jewelry made of natural pearls and stones. Guests enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres while shopping for jewelry and learning about the Milk Fund's important work. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of the event were donated to the Armenian Children's Milk Fund.

Evangelical Church of Armenia Holds Installation and Ordination Services

Under the leadership of Senior Pastor Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, and the supervision of the Pastoral Committee, two candidates were installed as full-time pastors to serve in the Evangelical Churches in Armenia (ECA). Pastor David Babayan who had done his internship under the supervision of Pastor Khatchik Khachatryan in Stepanavan and Rev. Garnik Tutikian in Noyemberyan, was installed as the full-time Pastor in Noyemberyan on September 21. Pastor Arman Martirosyan had served in Goris and in Sisian under the leadership of Rev. Sargis Ochinyan. He was installed as a full-time Pastor of Sisian on September 28, 2014.

On October 5, three pastors were ordained at the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Yerevan. These pastors had gone through an extensive training program and met all the requirements for ordination.

Rev. Arthur Ochinian is a graduate of the Evangelical Theological Academy. He will be the full-time Pastor of the ECA of Alahverdi.

Rev. Hrant Badalyan, is a graduate of the Evangelical Theological Academy and the Pastor of the ECA of Artashad. He will continue his ministry in the same church.



Rev. Hovhannes Hovsepian is a graduate of the Evangelical Theological Academy and the Near East School of Theology in Lebanon. He will continue to serve as the Assistant Pastor of the ECA of Yerevan. □

Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church, Glendale, CA

The ministry of the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church in Glendale, CA has been holding worship services at the First Lutheran Church on Colorado St. in Glendale since 2007. The Church is the fruit of Rev. Berdj Djambazian's outreach ministry among the Armenians in Glendale. In April 2010, the leadership of the Church was transferred to Rev. Hendrik Shahnazarian. The Church became a member of the AEUNA in 2010.

During its initial years, for a period of three years, the Presbyterian church financially supported the ministry of the Church. More recently, the AMAA and the AEUNA have also provided moral and financial support for this Church.

The Church provides the following ministries to the community: **Sunday worship services**, with an average attendance of 70 worshippers; **Sunday School classes**; **Vacation Bible School** programs; **Loving Hands ministries**, ladies who hold Bible studies and raise funds to help the needy in Armenia; and **Haykazounyats**, an Armenian language program where children learn how to read, write, and speak Armenian, and become familiar with their rich cultural heritage.

The Church members actively participate in activities organized by the Union such as Vacation Bible Schools, Camp Arev, and retreats for men and women.

On August 17, 2014, the Church celebrated AMAA Sunday and the blessing of



VBS teachers, volunteers and children.

the grapes. Rev. Hendrik led the worship service, Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, brought greetings from the AMAA, shared with them about AMAA missions around the world, and gave the Armenian message. □



Rev. Hendrik Shahnazarian (2nd from right) with some members of the Church.



Some of the members of the Holy Trinity Armenian Evangelical Church of Glendale, CA.

The History and Ministry of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church North Hollywood, California

On Palm Sunday 2002, the Holy Trinity Armenian Church (HTAC), under the leadership of Rev. Berdj Djambazian and Rev. Ara Chakerian, began a ministry to reach out to the Armenians who had immigrated to the North Hollywood area. Rev. Djambazian, through his television evangelistic programs, extended an invitation to all the listeners who wished to worship God. The Church provided a unique worship style, combining the traditional and evangelical to reach out to the unchurched Armenians.

The mission statement of the Church is:

*Worship, Love, Live, Serve and Proclaim the living Christ;
For the spiritual awakening of the Armenian people,
For the revival of the church, for the holiness of the family
And for keeping the torch of Lousavorich burning.*

Մեր առաքելությունը:

Պաշտել, Սիրել, և Հոչակել, Կենդանի Քրիստոսը.
Հայ ժողովուրդի Հոգեզարթման համար.
Եկեղեցւոյ արթնութեան և ընտանեկան սրբութեան համար.
Եւ ապա Լուսաւորիչի Կանթեղը վառ պահելու համար:

Soon thereafter, a core group of faithful believers began establishing ministries to reach out to the spiritual, social, cultural and educational needs of the Armenian community. These included worship services, religious education, Armenian classes, art classes, chess, etc.

The first Board of Elders who tirelessly worked to initiate these programs were Hratch Marjanian, Jeff Guldalian, Hrair Tashjian, Maria Minasyan-Garabedian, and Armine Begijian. The first Board of Deacons were: Helen Baboomi, Silva Atolikian, and Lucy Chakerian, (Rev. Ara's wife). The Board operated under the PC-USA bylaws.

Having the passion and calling to reach the unchurched, HTAC started a worship service for non-Armenians. In 2005, the ministry obtained a license and opened a preschool for 60 children. More recently, the ministry expanded by opening a music school, teaching piano, violin, and voice training. The Church works with the AMAA in its ministries. It raises funds to support orphans, widowers, and the poor in the remote towns and villages in Armenia and Karabagh.

In 2007 the Church was officially chartered by the PC-USA and in 2010 it became a member of the AEUNA. The HTAC actively participates in the ministries of the AEUNA, AEYF, Camp Arev, Merdinian, and the AMAA activities.

On October 3, with the help of generous donors and the support of the AMAA, the Church and the preschool building complex was purchased. With the security of ownership, the Church is ready to take its ministry to a new level - to remodel the existing facilities, expand the social hall, start a gym ministry, and start an after-school program. Our current ministry reaches out to 50 believers in the English service, 130 in the Armenian service, 25 in Sunday School, 200 in Saturday school, 60 in preschool, 15 in music school, 15 in women's Bible studies, 15 in adult Bible studies, 20 youth group, and 10 college and career.

On October 24, the Church held its 12th anniversary banquet at the Kristel Banquet Hall in North Hollywood. Over 180 were in attendance. The guests included AMAA Board members and AEUNA pastors. The HTAC congregation learned for the first time about the purchase of the Church building by the help of generous donors and the AMAA. There was great rejoicing and praises lifted to God for this joint venture and success in this ministry. The Master and Mistress of Ceremonies were Oshin and Helen Baboomi. The invocation was given by Rev. Joseph Matossian. A special poem was recited by Rozig Jayranian, and special music prepared by the HTAC choir; and the New Hope Singers' soloist Raffi Kerbabian. The Keynote Speaker was Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, who congratulated the congregation and its leadership, and challenged them to sow the seed in abundance and trust in God's leadership and guidance. He quoted Daniel Varoujan's *Tsane*, To Sow in Plenty, and trust that God will bless the harvest. Rev. Chakerian recognized individuals who have volunteered their time and talent throughout the years in support of the Church ministry. He then invited Rev. Berdj Djambazian to make the closing remarks and the Benediction.

The HTAC takes this opportunity to thank the AMAA and the generous donors in the purchase of the facilities. We invite you to join us in our ministry and worship services to praise God for His abundant blessings. □



AMAA Board members and guests at the 12th anniversary banquet of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church.



Holy Trinity Armenian Church banquet. Seated in the front are Rev. Ara Chakerian and Rev. Berdj Djambazian.

Blessings from Summer Camps

Summer camps continue to be one of the most important ministries of the AMAA worldwide. Children come together to rest, relax, rejuvenate, reenergize. They come to receive spiritual, cultural and physical nutrition. They come to learn about their significance as children of God, as children of a people with a rich Christ centered history and heritage. And they leave the camp filled with the love of God, the fellowship of the campers and counselors, and they share all these blessings with family and friends throughout the year, with hopes that they will meet once again next year to be blessed again.

All these are possible, because we have a team of dedicated leaders who love the Lord and volunteer their time to be of service, and because of the generous donors like you who help cover the expenses of these camps. On behalf of each and every camper, counselor and committed Board member, we thank you for your prayers and support. This year we want to share with you the camp ministries in Armenia, Karabagh, Lebanon and the United States.



Children at Alaverdi day camp.



Children at Berd day camp.



Arts and Crafts at Artik day camp.

Armenia & Karabagh

The AMAA has been organizing summer camps in Armenia and Karabagh for thousands of children, teens and youth since 1990. In cooperation with the AMAA, the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA) organized camps in two locations and DVBS in towns and villages during the summer of 2014. Over 4,300 children, youth and young adults participated. The campers were part of the AMAA's Child Sponsorship Program, members of the ECA Christian Education programs or needy children referred by various government agencies.

Camp "Sheen Shoghik" in the Hankavan region of Armenia was open for 59 days. During this time the Camp served 1,485 children, teens and youth and provided training for 80 camp counselors.

Camp "Bedrosian" Shushi in Karabagh was open from June 28 to August 1 and provided sessions for 570 children, teens and youth.

DVBS in Armenia and Karabagh organized activities for over 2,245 children and teens in 37 towns and villages.

In addition to their meals, the campers participated in morning exercises, worship services, Bible lessons, educational activities, outdoor games and sports, discussions on topics of interest, arts and crafts activities and evening variety programs. The children were also taught about their national culture through songs, stories about national heroes and various cultural events. Each camper was also given items of clothing as well as other gifts such as toothpaste, tooth brushes and shampoo.

The AMAA/ECA is most grateful for the many partners that contribute to the success of this program and to those who participated in these summer programs. Our partners include the Jinishian Memorial Foundation who has been a faithful partner in the AMAA camp programs for

many years, Hope for Armenia of France who organized Day camps, and the Bedrosian family for its long-term sponsorship of the AMAA Camp Bedrosian in Shushi, Karabagh. Other supporters include the AMAA Office staff in Paramus, NJ and in Armenia, the Child and Orphan Care Committee for its successful fundraisers, AMAA donors and Board members.

Last, yet most important, we thank God for the spiritual and material blessings all of the children and counselors enjoyed at the camps this summer. □



Camp "Sheen Shoghik" in Hankavan, Armenia.

KCHAG Camp - Lebanon

Adolescent's Camp

The Adolescent's Camp was held July 13-20 with 65 adolescents and 14 camp counselors participating and Jiro Ghazarian, a student at the Near East School of Theology, serving as the leader. The Camp session included a variety of activities, such as morning retreats, worship services, Bible study groups, musical programs, games, fellowship, excursions and prayer time. The whole camp session was a blessing to all participants. May God continue to bless these adolescents and may they continue to grow in their spiritual life and live a life that is pleasant to God.

Women's Camp

After an interruption of about four decades, the women of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Lebanon had their conference in the newly renovated KCHAG Camp grounds from July 23-26. The location brought sweet memories to all 35 participants and guests, with the hope to form new friendships and new memories.

The main theme was **Contagious Cheerfulness**, based on Philippians 1:25 "Convinced... for your progress and joy in the faith." The Program was full of worship services, lectures on different topics, prayer time, a talent show and fellowship. The group left the camp grounds with a promise that they will apply whatever they had learned in their daily life and environment.

Children's Camp

From August 4-10, the newly renovated KCHAG Camp grounds located on one of the beautiful mountains of Lebanon were filled with the sounds of children who arrived by bus from different locations of the city.

A group of camp counselors and leaders worked very hard to prepare the program for the spiritual and cultural enrichment and enjoyment of the children. The daily program consisted of worship services, Bible studies, musical programs, arts and crafts, games and fellowship.

The Camp session was truly a blessing for all the children and an opportunity to make life-long friendships. They departed with the hope to meet again next summer.

Youth Camp in Armenia

August 22 was an unforgettable day for some of the youth of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Lebanon, as they travelled to Armenia for their Summer Camp Session, organized by the Executive Committee of the Christian Endeavor Society. The Camp was led by Rev. Datev Basmadjian and a team of leaders and camp counselors. The first few days the youth stayed in Yerevan for sightseeing and



The adolescents at KCHAG Camp.



The children at KCHAG Camp.



The youth from Lebanon visit the "Yerablur" Military Cemetery, in Yerevan, Armenia.

on August 25 went to Camp Sheen Shoghik in Hankavan for their annual Summer Camp session. Rev. Nerses Balabanian, Pastor of the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco, CA, was the main speaker. His theme was **Priorities** and he emphasized that everyone has to prioritize their time, as all are on this world for a certain period of time. Like Apostle Paul, everyone should be a servant, and do everything for the glory of God.

While at Hankavan, the campers also had an opportunity to visit Lake Sevan, Dilijan, Haghartzin and Dzaghgatzor. They left the Hankavan Camp grounds on Saturday and went to Noravank and Goris where they stayed and spent time with the youth of the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Goris. On the last day in Armenia, they visited Karni and Keghart Monastery and in the evening said their good byes to Armenia taking with them the blessings of the Camp sessions and memories of the Motherland. □

Camp AREV - California

A Record Breaking Year

IMAGINE! Imagine God creating the heavens and the earth. Imagine God forming man out of dust. Imagine the moment when man disobeys God. Imagine God's unconditional love and grace. Imagine Jesus leaving His heavenly throne to be born as a human. Imagine His work among the people. Imagine the cross. Imagine His body hung on the tree. Imagine the empty grave. Imagine Jesus appearing to John and Peter. Imagine the start of the church. Imagine Salvation and redemption and God's ultimate plan of rescuing His people.

This was the theme of Summer Camp 2014 at Camp AREV. All the campers had an opportunity to imagine the amazing work of God. For many campers this was their first experience at an Armenian Christian Camp as they found themselves face to face with the reality of Christ. Praise be to God for the many commitments that were made for Christ. For others, summer camp was a season of rededication and renewal. Ultimately, God was honored.

Overall, 2014 was a record breaking year. There were 289 campers over three weeks and one weekend of camp in addition to 60 volunteers and staff members. High School camp reached full capacity with 112 campers and 150 total for the week. Many of them stayed in tents and the experience was priceless.

God's provisions proved endless: finances, personnel, the new chapel and dining hall, and the generosity of donors all came together seamlessly. Most importantly, thanks to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this summer a memorable one for all the campers.

As we start our preparations for Winter Camp 2015 we ask two things of you. As the Apostle Paul urged the Ephesians to pray (Ephesians 6:18), we ask you to pray for the Spirit to move in a mighty way during our week-end sessions. Also, we have created different ways through which you can contribute and become a partner in this ministry. From one-time donations to becoming a monthly contributor as a "Friend of Camp AREV," your gift will have a lasting impact on their lives.

We look forward to seeing God continue to work through this ministry. □



Camp Arevelk - New York

2014 marked the 15th year of Camp Arevelk - this wonderful AEUNA ministry located in Kingston, NY. With 98 campers and over 30 counselors and staff, Camp Arevelk was filled with great excitement and noise, as well as fellowship and worship. This ministry has been under the supervision of Camp Director Sylvia Jizmejian since its inception in 2000. The success of Camp Arevelk is due to the work of the Camp Arevelk Committee, the counselors and the staff who give of their time for this important ministry. This Camp has been essential in developing young leaders in the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship and ultimately, the churches of the AEUNA.

This summer, the Camp session started on August 10. The theme was Traveling Faith (a faith that carries you through your life as you travel to different times/places/situations) which will also be the AEYF theme for the 2014-2015 school year.

The Activities Coordinator was Vatche Demirjian and the Arts and Crafts sessions were led by Adriane Bakmazjian. Arpi Sarian served as the Camp Nurse. Their Bible teachers were Revs. Haig Kherlopian, Shant Barsoumian and Ara Jizmejian. □



A special gift to the children of Artsakh

Major improvements to the facilities at the AMAA Bedrosian Camp in Shushi, Artsakh

By HAROUT NERCESSIAN

The Bedrosian family of Fresno, California has been sponsoring the AMAA Bedrosian Camp in Shushi, Artsakh since 2003.

Through the Bedrosian family's ongoing support, thousands of needy children of Artsakh and Southern Armenia have been blessed and touched. The AMAA Bedrosian Camp provides campers with nutritious meals, Christian Education, educational fun activities, and most importantly, the children experience the love of God through the loving care of the camp counselors.

On January 1, 2014, Ernest, the eldest of the Bedrosian brothers, passed away. In lieu of flowers, the family requested family and friends to donate to the AMAA Bedrosian Camp Fund.

More than \$100,000 was raised. This enabled AMAA's Artsakh office to realize much needed renovations. The camp dormitory was renovated with brand new flooring and wall repairs. The roofs of the outdoor cabanas were replaced, enabling them to withstand the strong Shushi winds. However, the gift that the children loved most was a brand new playground for both the campers and the children of the neighborhood.

The opening of the playground took place on July 4. Bryan and Rosie Bedrosian attended the event. Several dozen children



Bryan and Rosie Bedrosian cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the Camp Bedrosian playground.

and parents were waiting at the entrance of the playground long before the opening was to take place. The Mayor of Shushi, Ardzvig Sargsyan expressed his great appreciation to the Bedrosian family for their ongoing care for the people of Shushi.

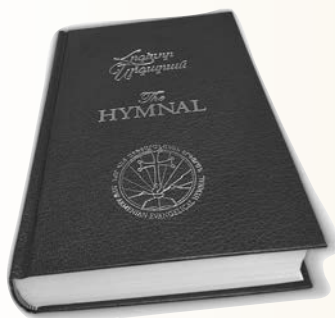
Addressing the children, Bryan Bedrosian said, "the smile of each child encourages us. Always smile, and enjoy your childhood."

The plaque placed at the playground summarizes the sentiment and vision of the Bedrosians: **This playground is dedicated to**

the living memory of Ernest, Krikor, and Kenneth Bedrosian of Fowler, California, USA who, with great passion, promoted national and Christian values among the children of Karabagh. They were driven by the words of Christ, "Let the children come unto me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

The event was reported on Artsakh TV and in "Azat Artsakh" daily. These can be viewed at AMAA Armenia's web site: www.amaa.am. □

The New Hymnal Hokevor Yerkan - Հոգևոր Երգարան - available from AMAA Bookstore



The Hymnal (Hokevor Yerkan), in English and Armenian, published by the Armenian Heritage Committee of Royal Oak, Michigan, (August of 2014), represents the culmination of 22 years of tireless and selfless labor by its two editors, the brother-sister team of Hrant Agbabian and Lucina Agbabian Hubbard. Lifelong members of the Armenian Evangelical Community and the children of Rev. Siragan Agbabian, each brought their significant musical talents to bear on a task that neither anticipated would last the better part of a quarter century. Hrant was for decades Choir Conductor at the largest Armenian Evangelical Church in the US; Lucina has for many years been teaching Armenian music history at USC. Working with them were a number of distinguished clergy and laymen from both within and out of the Evangelical tradition. Price: **\$30.00** - Product #353

To order, you may call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607, E-mail: info@amaa.org, or visit the Bookstore section on AMAA's website - www.amaa.org

AMAA ARMENIA TOUR

Past, Present and Future

By DAVID AYNEJIAN

Over a period of 12 days in October, over 40 people from North and South America took part in the Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) annual Tour to Armenia and Karabagh. Participants visited many cultural and historical sites as well as the AMAA offices, camps and schools. In many ways, this year's AMAA Tour was a look at Armenia's past, present and future as participants gained not only a sense of Armenian history, culture and life in Armenia today, but also an understanding of the work done by the AMAA in Armenia and Karabagh.

Each stop along the Tour was an experience on its own. At Keghart the group not only saw a beautiful church which is partially carved in the mountain, but also tasted the sweet "Katah" bread sold outside. At Datev, the group took "The Wings of Datev" cable car (the longest in the world) to the ancient monastery and back, enjoying a spectacular view.

The Tour visited many well-known areas in Armenia and Karabagh, such as Etchmiadzin, Garni, Keghart, Khor Virab, Lake Sevan, Haghartsin Monastery in Dilijan, Noravank, Gandzasar Monastery, Ghazanchetsots Church in Shushi, Amberd, Oshagan and Sardarabad.

While seeing the sites in Armenia, the work of the AMAA was predominant. On the way to Lake Sevan, the group visited the Sheen Shoghik Camp in Hankavan.

They saw some of the completed renovations and also how the Camp can be used as a conference center thanks to the generous donation of the TF Educational Foundation.

While in Shushi, the group had an opportunity to visit the Bilezikian Kindergarten, one of the AMAA's five kindergartens in Karabagh. The group interacted with the children and handed out New Testaments in Eastern Armenian, along with some candy. The group was moved to see that most of the children were happier to receive the New Testaments than the candy.

The highlight of seeing the AMAA's work in Armenia and Karabagh was the opening of the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center and the Krikor and Beatrice Bilezikian Building in Yerevan. After attending the opening and ribbon cutting ceremony, the group toured the School. Everyone was very impressed by the School, and several people referred to it as "The crown jewel of the AMAA's work!" The group also attended the Banquet in the evening. Everyone was overwhelmed by the beauty of the School, and the commitment to educating children made by Ed Avedisian, Chuck Bilezikian and the AMAA.

As the Tour wound down, a farewell dinner was held at Parvana Restaurant. What made the night even more special was the birthday celebration of Tour member Jeff Margarian. It was a night of good food, dancing and friendship.

Members of this year's Tour were able to see Armenia's history in the places they visited. They were also able to see Armenia today, with all its beauty, and all its struggles. They were also able to see Armenia's future



The Tour in front of the entrance to Etchmiadzin.



The Bilezikian family enjoys lunch after visiting the churches in Etchmiadzin.



David Aynejian, AMAA Director of Finance, visits with children at the Bilezikian Kindergarten in Shushi.

through the commitment and continued work of the AMAA. We thank God for such a wonderful trip and time of fellowship, and we thank Him for all He does through the AMAA!



The group on the border of free, independent Artsakh (Nagorno Karabagh).



Ovsanna Dervartanian visits with children at the Bilezikian Kindergarten in Shushi, Artsakh.



Jeff Marganian holds his birthday cake at Parvana Restaurant while Lucy Sahagian and Henry Hasserjian look on.



Carole Melikian and Virgina Hazian visit Alphabet Park.



The group enjoys lunch at Noravank.



AMAA Treasurer Nurhan Helvacian takes time out for a picture with Seta Tutuyan, Luiza Aynejian and Elizabeth Khodabash at Keghart.



North and South American Armenians meet as Ron Altoon of LA poses with Maria Marachlian, Paola Marachlian and Camila Marachlian of Uruguay in front of Khor Virab and Mt. Ararat.



Beatriz Kouyoundjian and Maria Marachlian, from Montevideo, enjoy the farewell dinner at Parvana.



The group in front of Ghazanchetsots Cathedral in Shushi, Artsakh.



Tour members enjoy some sweet "Katah" bread sold just outside of Keghart Monastery.



Rebecca and Antranik Karaminassian do some shopping at Vernisage in Yerevan.



Anahid Terjimanian holds a child at the Bilezikian Kindergarten in Shushi.

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Attends IDC Summit in Washington, D.C.

Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), recently had the privilege of attending the In Defense of Christians (IDC) Inaugural Summit September 9-11 in Washington, D.C.

In one of the most powerful gatherings of modern times, Christian leaders from the Middle East gathered together to raise awareness of the American people and policy makers in defense of Christians in the Middle East. The theme of this historic Summit, which attracted over 1,200 participants, was "Protecting and Preserving Christianity Where it All Began."

Invited guests were literally a "Who's Who" in Christian leadership from the Middle East, some of which denominations date back to the genesis of Christianity. In attendance were church leaders from The Syriac Maronite Catholic Church of Antioch and All the East, The Melkite Greek Catholic Church of Antioch and All the East including Alexandria and Jerusalem, The Syriac Catholic Church of Antioch and All the East, The Holy See of Cilicia, The Chaldean Catholic Church of Babylon, The Assyrian Church of the East, The Coptic Church of Alexandria, and The Supreme Council of the Evangelical Denomination of Syria and Lebanon.

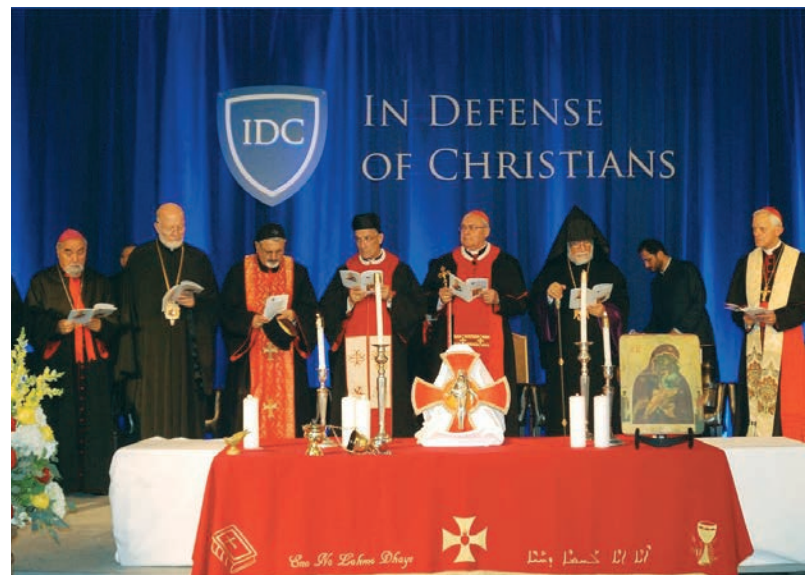
The Summit began with an Ecumenical Prayer Service with rites, prayers and singing from the gathering church leaders. The Honorable John Ashcroft, former Attorney General of the United States, and His Eminence Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, delivered the empowering Keynote Addresses which focused on the Summit's theme of Unity.

The second day of the Summit focused on advocacy on Capitol Hill and how Church leaders can influence US Foreign Policy. Aram I of the Holy See of Cilicia delivered a strong message on unity noting that the survival of Christians in the Middle East is a miracle. Seventeen Democratic and Republican members of Congress also took

the podium to address the conference and meet with Church leaders. An unprecedented meeting between the patriarchs of the Middle Eastern Christian Churches and President Barack Obama also took place during the Summit.

Day three of the IDC Summit was significant because of the focus between the tragedy of 9/11 in the United States and the current situation facing Middle Eastern Christianity. In both cases, challenges are faced as a result of man's inhumanity, use of violence and extremism. Most of the speeches made reference to the connection so that the American public can better understand what Christians are facing in the Middle East. Many speakers, religious leaders and panel moderators also made reference to the Armenian Genocide and the Genocide Centennial and drew a parallel between what is happening today and what happened during the Genocide a century ago. The leaders emphasized that military action alone will not solve or resolve the crisis in the Middle East and that education, cohabitation and the vital voice of moderate Islam are necessary for a new Middle East that can embrace all three monolithic religions.

"I was proud to be part of the Summit which championed the need for awareness, advocacy, and unity at a time when Middle Eastern Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities face widespread persecution in their homelands," said Mr. Khanjian. "A good number of Armenians were at the conference in different capacities and I had the privilege of introducing the mission of the AMAA to them. An atmosphere of Love, Brotherhood, Unity and Comradeship was in the air and a strong will NOT TO LEAVE the Middle



East was expressed by the leadership of the Eastern Churches and by representatives of all the other participating organizations."

"I pray that people in power will seek their conscience, see the light and follow God's path to end the miserable suffering of the people in the Middle East. No one is ready to leave the Middle East yet despite the difficulties, uncertainties and dangers. Our mission at the AMAA is to continue providing prayers and material relief to our brethren in Syria."

For more information on the In Defense of Christians organization and its new campaign to mobilize people across America and around the world in service of this cause, please visit the IDC website at www.indefenseofchristians.org. □



HELP Our People in Syria!

"The Christian Community in Syria has the growing fear of being targeted."

Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President - Armenian Community of Syria

"This is a moment filled with awe and fear! Thus we move to announce a state of emergency in order to preserve what remains of the Christian presence in the east and circumvent its demise."

Supreme Council - Evangelical Churches in Syria and Lebanon

A century ago, under the blanket of darkness, a nation was murdered, while the world plunged into dead silence and total inaction. Today, with technology on hand, we witness the crime, hear the cries and relive the Genocide.

In the comfort of our daily lives, it is hard to realize the dangers our kin are facing in Syria. The danger though, is real, imminent and extremely serious.

Can we allow a deja vu?

We might not be able to change the course of history. But then again, history teaches us that we just might.

In a hymn written in 1774, William Copter said "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform..." We might just be called to perform His wonders.

The AMAA is focused on these areas of Syria Relief:

- Social and medical services to all
- Shelter for the homeless and displaced
- Tuition to Syrian Armenian Students



PLEASE CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE AMAA SYRIA RELIEF FUND.

To make a donation you can send in your tax-deductible checks payable to AMAA for Syria relief and mail to AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card, please visit AMAA's website at amaa.org or call AMAA at 201.265.2607. thank you for your support!

Boston Area Child and Orphan Care Committee Holds Its Annual Fundraising Event

On September 26, the Boston Area Child and Orphan Care Committee held its annual fundraising event, "In the Spirit of Giving" at the Wellesley Country Club. Host Michelle Simourian welcomed all the guests and introduced Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, who set the tone for the evening with words of inspiration. Joyce Janigian introduced the celebrity auctioneer Mike

Wankum, who did a wonderful job in raising funds. Music was provided by the John Baboian Trio. Reflecting on the event, Mr. Khanjian said, "the event was well-planned, well-organized, well-attended, well-understood and well-concluded. Kudos to every lovely, motivated and energetic committee member."

All the proceeds from the event will be used to support the AMAA children's programs in Armenia and Karabagh. □



A few AMAA Boston Area Child and Orphan Care Committee members with Celebrity Host Mike Wankum.



Guests enjoy the beautiful Wellesley Country Club.

AMAA Plants 700 Ash Trees in Saralanj

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA) believe that taking care of the environment is a Divine Command. With this in mind, on November 1 an enthusiastic team of 30 employees and volunteers of the AMAA and ECA took part in a tree planting project in the village of Saralanj, located in the Shirak Region of Armenia.

In cooperation with the Armenia Tree Project (ATP), the team planted 700 ash trees provided by the ATP. The spirit of volunteerism and community service inspired local villagers to join the effort. The village chief and community leaders were all excited about this project. They were most thankful to the AMAA/ECA volunteers for their time and effort to enhance the beauty of their village. They vowed to ensure that the trees are looked after so they can grow into a forest. The volunteers returned to Yerevan tired, yet excited about this most worthwhile project.

The AMAA thanks the ATP for its support and looks forward to future projects. □



AMAA and AEUNA to Present A Musical Program for Commemoration and Renewal

"Our Light, Our Hope" is the theme of a special musical program that the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) and the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will present on Saturday, January 24, 2015, at 8:00 p.m. at the majestic Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, California. The concert will be performed by the Lark Musical Society Choir and Orchestra of Glendale, CA under the direction of Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian.

The program will combine several artistic mediums such as music, recitation and dance. An array of selections will be presented in three parts. Part I will reflect the Armenian people's traditions and heroism. The Armenian nation is one of the most ancient civilizations and boasts significant periods of spiritual, artistic, military, economic, and intellectual achievements.

Part II will commemorate the collective tragedy that befell the Armenian nation in the early twentieth century. We shall pay tribute to our martyrs who perished for their ethnicity and Christian faith.

Part III will celebrate our triumphant survival and herald a brighter future. Through our artistic voice we shall also recommit ourselves to the Lord and our Culture.

On this solemn occasion, and given the huge undertaking, the Centennial Committee is highly optimistic of the unwavering support that it will receive from the community, friends and the public at large. Donations should be made and mailed to: AEUNA (memo: Centennial Concert), 411 East Acacia Ave., #200, Glendale, CA 91205-2821. Tickets can be purchased at: LARK, 543 Arden Ave., Glendale, CA 91203, (818) 500-9997, as well as from Itsmyseat at <http://www.itsmyseat.com/Light>, (818) 538-4911. Ticket payments should also be made to the AEUNA. For further inquiries, please call the AMAA Headquarters in Paramus, NJ at (201) 265-2607 or the AMAA West Coast Office at (818) 937-9840.



The Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of
The Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA)
The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA)

Presents:

OUR LIGHT, OUR Hope ՄԵՐ ԼՈՒՅ, ՄԵՐ ՅՈՒՍ

A Musical Program for Commemoration and Renewal

Artistic Director..... Vatsche Barsoumian

Music Director..... Artashes Kartalian

Rhetorics..... Arousiak Sahakian
Rhapsodist..... Rafi Barsoumian
Declaimer..... Taguhi Arzoumanian

Soloists..... Parik Nazarian
Heibert Saryan
Karnie Haddian
Rafii Kerbabian
Ara Kourouyan

Reciter..... Michael Pesmilian
Text & Illustrations Director..... Gevork Nazarian
Choreographer..... Nune Alaverdian

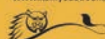
Saturday, January 24, 2015, 8:00 P.M.

The Ambassador Auditorium
131 South Saint John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105

Donation
Various "Donor" levels available (please see list inside)
Ticket prices: \$150, \$125, \$100, \$75, \$60, \$50, \$40 (\$25 students)

For Tickets and information please call Lark at: 818.500.9997

Tickets can also be purchased at
www.itsmyseat.com/light



LARK, 543 Arden Ave., Glendale, CA 91203
Tel: 818.500.9997
Web: www.larkmusicalsociety.com



The Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of
The Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA)
The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA)

Presents:

OUR LIGHT, OUR HOPE

Saturday, January 24, 2015, 8:00 P.M.
The Ambassador Auditorium
131 South Saint John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105

INVITATION TO SUPPORT

We invite you to support **OUR LIGHT, OUR HOPE** program. We rely on your generous support to bring this undertaking to fruition. You can become a benefactor by selecting one of the following categories:

DONATION LEVELS

We would like to support the "Our Light, Our Hope" concert as follows:

- ☐ **Sponsor**.....\$5,000
(includes 8 honorary invitations to the concert)
- ☐ **Patron**.....\$2,500
(includes 6 honorary invitations to the concert)
- ☐ **Donor**.....\$1,000
(includes 4 honorary invitations to the concert)
- ☐ **Contributor**.....\$500
(includes 2 honorary invitations to the concert)

Ticket prices

\$150, 125, \$100, \$75, \$60, \$50, \$40 (\$25 students)

- ☐ I / We wish to purchase _____ tickets at _____ \$ per ticket.
- ☐ We cannot attend but would like to make a donation of \$ _____
- ☐ A check for \$ _____ is enclosed.
- ☐ A check for \$ _____ will be forwarded later.

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone No. _____
Email address _____

Please make checks payable to: **AEUNA** (memo: Genocide Concert)
411 East Acacia Ave., #200, Glendale, CA 91205-2821

Tickets can also be purchased at:
www.itsmyseat.com/light
Or



Lark Musical Society
Tel: 818.500.9997
543 Arden Ave., Glendale, CA 91203



During the Months of September, October and November, Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, visited the following churches on the East Coast and brought the greetings of the Association, encouraging them to continue their support of its service and mission ministries in 24 countries around the world: Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ, Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA, Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA and First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, QC.



***At the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA.
Pictured L to R: Zaven & Sona Khanjian, Maria and Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian.***



***At the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA.
Pictured L to R: Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji, Sona Khanjian, Mary Doghramji and Zaven Khanjian.***



Upon the invitation of the Republic of Armenia's United Nation's (UN) Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanian, Zaven Khanjian visited the UN on September 24. Addressing the 69th UN General Assembly, RA President Serzh Sargsyan talked about Turkey and Armenia protocols. Talking about Syria and Iraq the President mentioned the "Thousands of imperiled Armenians in Aleppo."

**AMAA
Armenian Genocide Centennial
Committee Presents**

HRANT DINK
the Man, the Mission, the Martyrdom
by Zaven Khanjian
AMAA Executive Director/CEO

**with a video presentation of
SWALLOW'S NEST**

(Hrant Dink at the Armenian Evangelical TUZLA Camp)

**Friday, January 30, 2015, 7:30 pm
(Snow date, Sunday, February 8, 4 pm)
Armenian Presbyterian Church
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652**



Dr. Vartkes Najarian, founder of the Armenian Medical Outreach, Joyce Abdulian, member of HU Women's Auxiliary, with Dr. Dikran Kasper in New Port Beach. Dr. Kasper is a renowned ophthalmologist who has helped Armenia for many years.



Harry Najarian, member of the Haigazian University Board of Trustees and Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, with Johnny Ibrahim, Consul General of Lebanon (center).

AMAA Sunday at Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA



On Sunday, September 21, the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey held its AMAA Sunday. Over 70 people were in attendance. Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian led the worship services. The Armenian and English messages were given by Levon Filian. The deacons had planned a luncheon service with a cultural program. The moderator, Rosemary Saatjian, led the program. Garo Sulahian presented a selection of Christian and Armenian songs. Mr. Filian reflected on the ministries of the AMAA in 24 countries, emphasizing the urgent need for prayer and support for Syrian Armenians.

We want to thank the pastor and the congregation of the Immanuel Church for giving us the opportunity to share our ministry with them. We also thank Mr. and Mrs. Vahe Ashkarian for underwriting the luncheon expenses. All proceeds from the luncheon were donated to AMAA Ministries. □



Levon Filian visits with AMAA Benefactor Sam Chekijian and Naira Marutyan, United Nations Commissioner in Yerevan.



Levon Filian visits with Dikran Karapetian, Assistant to the RA Prime Minister and his family in Yerevan.



AMAA Benefactors Jerry Turpanjian and Lori Muncherian with Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director.



Levon Filian visits with Barbara Vartan of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno, CA.

Set and Joan Momjian Celebrate Their 55th Wedding Anniversary

The entire Momjian family gathered at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church in Havertown, PA to surprise Set and Joan Momjian on the occasion of their 55th wedding anniversary. During the worship service on November 16, the altar floral dedication was made by their children and grandchildren in thanks to God for the Momjians' many years of marriage. After the worship service, the entire congregation was invited to a luncheon reception, complete with anniversary cake for the happy couple. There was a slide show depicting scenes from the Momjian photo archives, and a joyful spirit in the church's social hall. Many members of the extended Momjian family were there, as well as family, friends, along with AMCC members. The Momjians were visibly moved by the outpouring of affection, and expressed their thanks to God for their happy life together. We offer our congratulations to Set and Joan, thanking God for their faithfulness to one another in marriage, and for their faithful service to the Lord Jesus and his church.

Set and Joan Momjian cut their anniversary cake, with Set's brother, past AMAA President Al Momjian, in the background. (Photo by Karen Bogosian)





The Armenian Missionary Association of America Invites You

To Bring Christmas Joy to Our Children in Armenia & Karabagh

Since early 1990s, The AMAA and the Evangelical Church of Armenia has been organizing Christmas Programs in Armenia and Karabagh to share God's love and bring Christmas joy packages to thousands of children in over 40 towns throughout the country. Your generous donations will help us continue this important ministry to our children in the homeland and share with them the gift of Love.

Yes, I would like to provide a blessed Christmas season for orphans and needy children.

Enclosed is my donation of

☐\$10 ☐\$20 ☐\$30 ☐\$40 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐Other \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to AMAA for Christmas Joy Packages and mail to AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card, please visit AMAA's website at amaa.org or call AMAA at 201.265.2607.

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Գործադիր Տնօրէն Պրն. Զաւէն Խանճեանի Խօսքը, Երեւանի Աւետիսեան Վարժարանի եւ Համայնքային Կեդրոնի Բացման հանդիսութեան, Հոկտեմբեր 8, 2014-ին:

Ճանաչել Ձիմաստութիւն եւ Ձիւրատ, Իմանալ Ձբանս Հանճարոյ

Աստուածաշունչի այս խօսքերով «Օշականի ամենասուրբ գերեզման»ի «վսեմական վարդապետ»ը Աստուծոյ խօսքին թագուհի թարգմանութեան անդրանիկ պարբերութիւնը արարեց, հայոց ազգին իր նուիրած յաւերժութեան երաշխիք սրբազան հայ տառերով:

1600 տարիներ առաջ «Օշականի անկորուստ կրօնական»ի կատարած գիւտին եւ անոր անմիջական իմաստաւորման ոգեկոչման ամիսն է Հոկտեմբերը: Եւ այսօր, ի նշ կարելի է աւելի պատշաճ, արժանատի, յարմար, նուիրական եւ իմաստուն երախտագիտական արտայայտութիւն մը ըլլալ փոխադարձելու «գիւտին փառք»ի անմահական նուէրը ազգին, եթէ ոչ Աւետիսեաններու եւ Պիլեգիքեաններու երազի իրականացման այս կենդանի մտքի եւ դպրութեան փարոս հանդիսացող նորակառոյց, արդիական, փառաւոր վարժարանը:

Արդարեւ, ոչ մէկ ծախս զլացուած, ոչ մէկ երեւակայութիւն անտեսուած, ամենաարդիական սարքաւորումներով կառուցուած, մտքի եւ հանճարի շտեմարան մը ըլլալու կոչուած այս կենդանի կառոյցը նուէրն է Աւետիսեան ամուլին, ի յիշատակ իրենց ծնողաց՝ Խորեն եւ Շուշանիկ Աւետիսեաններու, Պիլեգիքեան ամուլին եւ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան գետեղուած հայ ժողովուրդի գիտութեան, լոյսի եւ յաւերժացման բազմինին վրայ:

Այս գործակցութիւնը բնական ընտրութիւն մըն էր Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան համար, նկատի ունենալով Հայ Աւետարանական համայնքի մօտ 168 տարիներու եւ Աւետարանչականի 96 տարիներու ուսման, կրթութեան եւ զարգացման մարգերու մէջ ունեցած առաջնահերթ ջանակիր դերը եւ պատուական ժառանգութիւնը:

Անմահն Սիամանթօ կը շարունակէ երկնել «գիւտին փառք»ը

«Օշականի անհուն մեռեալ
Դուն բիրաւոր ճիւղերով
Ոսկեհոս գետ գիտութեան
Մտքի փրկիչ, յոյսի հսկայ, կեանքի կեդրոն
Դուն անվախճան փռչիացեալ
Դուն ջահերու անմարելի շտեմարան
Ուրկէց ուղեղս, մանկութեան օրերուն
Ես, աղքատօրէն եկայ վառել...»

Այսօր, այս նուիրական կենդանի կառոյցին պաշտօնական նաւակատիքով Աւետիսեան, Պիլեգիքեան

փաղանգին եւ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան սրտագին մաղթանք է որ մայր հայրենիքի սրբազան հողին վրայ կեանքի կոչուած այս հրաշալի մանուկները, հետեւելով անմահացած նահատակ բանաստեղծի օրինակին, իրենց մանկական ուղեղներու կայծը քաղեն Աւետիսեան Վարժարանի «անմարելի ջահերու շտեմարան»էն:

«Օշականի հանճարանիստ հողակոյտ»էն փոքր տարածութեան մը վրայ հաստատուած նորակառոյց այս կաճառը գուցէ մէկ հանճարի մը իրականացած երազն եղած ըլլայ: Սակայն այսօր մեկնած այս օրուայ մեր դիմաց փռուած այս գեղեցիկ երեւոյթէն եւ թափ տալով դէպ ապագայ երկարող մեր երեւակայութեան, կը հաւաստիացնեմ ձեզի, թէ այդ մէկ երազի իրականացումը ծնունդ պիտի տայ բիրաւոր սերունդներու երազներու իրականացման, որոնք մեր ազգի, ժողովուրդի եւ հայրենիքի ապագայ արժանատի առաջնորդները կոչուած են ըլլալ:

Մշակոյթի ամիս է Հոկտեմբերը եւ ի պատիւ ազնիւ բարերարներու եւ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան, Սիամանթոյի հետ կրկնելով եւ մեր խօսքը ուղղելով «Օշականի անկորուստ կրօնաւոր» ին, ճակատաբաց կը բացականչենք

«Եւ լսէ այսօր, թոթովախօս ծաղկոցի
Շուշան - մարմին մանուկներէն
Մինչեւ ծերերն հողաբոյր
Քու Սուրբ անունդ կ'օրհներգեն:»

Յանուն Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան եւ յանուն այս Մեսրոպաշունչ հաստատութեան հետ առնչուող փաղանգին, մեր խորին շնորհակալութիւնը կ'ուզենք յայտնել երկրի Վսեմաշուք Նախագահ Պարոն Սերժ Սարգսեանին, որ իր ներկայութեամբ պատուեց այս պատմական եւ յիշատակելի պահը:

Նաեւ երախտագիտական խօսք ունինք հայրենի պետութեան բոլոր կառոյցներէ ներս գործող պատկան մարմիններուն, որոնք իրենց առարկայական եւ բարոյական աջակցութիւնը ցոյց տուին այս ծրագրի ծննդոցէն մինչեւ աւարտում:

Փառք Աստուծոյ:
Փառք ու պատիւ բոլորին:

Մտածողին, յղացողին, ճարտարապետին, ճարտարագետին, շինարարին, աշխատաւորին, արհեստաւորին, բարերարին, ուսուցիչին, աշակերտին, հովիւին եւ Աւետարանչականին:

Վարձքերնիդ կատար:

Թարգմանչաց՝ Երէկ եւ Այսօր

Վեր. Դոկտ. Աւետիս Պոյնէրեան*

Հոկտեմբեր ամիսը Հայ Մշակույթի ամիս է։ Մենք ազգային ու կրօնական պարծանքով կը տօնենք Հոկտեմբեր ամիսը որպէս Մշակույթի Ամիս եւ կ'անդրադառնանք մեր պատմութեան ամենէն փայլուն եւ ամենէն գեղեցիկ տօներէն՝ Թարգմանչաց Տօնին։ Նաեւ՝ կը յիշենք ու կը յիշատակենք Մեսրոպ Մաշտոցի, Սահակ Պարթեւի եւ Վռամշապուհ Արքայի նախաձեռնած եզակի միջոցառումը՝ օժտելու Հայ Ազգը ու ժողովուրդը Հայ գիր ու գրականութիւնով, Հայերէն Աստուածաշունչով, Հայ Դպրոցով, եւ ազգային ինքնուրոյն մշակոյթով ու Ոսկեդարով։

Թարգմանչաց սոսկ բառ մը չէ, այլ՝ համագումար է բազմաթիւ նուաճումներու, ինչպէս՝ աստուծային միջամտութիւնով Հայ տառերու հրաշք Գիտին, Աստուածաշունչի Ոսկեղնիկ Թարգմանութեան, Հայ Դպրոցին, Հայ կրթութեան ու դաստիարակութեան հիմնադրութեան, աւետարանչութեան ու լուսաւորութեան առաքելութեան, Հայ ինքնուրոյն ստեղծագործութեան սկիզբին, Յոյն ու Ասորի երկերու թարգմանութեան։

Թարգմանչաց նաեւ Ազգին ու ժողովուրդին քաջ ու խիզախ դիրքորոշումն է՝ մերժելու Յունարէնը, Ասորերէնը, Պարսկերէնը, փոխարէնը՝ ընտրելու Հայերէնը ու ազգովին չլանձնուելու ծովման, այլ՝ փրկելու ու պահպանելու մեր ազգային ինքնութիւնը, բարքերն ու հարստութիւնները, եւ ապրելու ու ստեղծագործելու Հայերէն լեզուով, գիր ու գրականութիւնով։

Թարգմանչաց նաեւ Հայ Դպրոցին ու Հայ Դպրութեան ընտրութիւնն է՝ պահելու ու փրկելու Հայ Ազգը ու ժողովուրդը տգիտութեան խաւարէն ու կորուստէն, լուսաւորելու սերունդները Հայ Դպրոցին կրթութիւնով ու դաստիարակութիւնով, եւ պարգեւելու անոնց գրական ու մշակութային,

կրթական ու հոգեմտաւոր բնագաւառներու զարթօնք մը։

Այսօր, Հայ Գիրերու Գիտէն ու Թարգմանչաց Տօնէն անցած են 1600 տարիներ։ Այսօր եւս մենք մեզ ընտրութեան դիմաց կը գտնենք, մանաւանդ՝ Սփիւռքի մէջ, ուր մենք մեզ դարձեալ դէմ յանդիման կը գտնենք այլասերումի, ծովումի ու ոչնչացումի հովերուն ու հոսանքներուն։ Հետեւաբար, այսօր, պէտք ունինք գիտակցելու մեզի փոխանցուած անփոխարինելի ժառանգութեան արժէքին եւ զայն փոխանցելու յաջորդ սերունդին, որպէս զի մեր՝ Հայ մնալու միասնական ջանքին ու աշխատանքին մէջ չզլանանք ու տեղի չտանք, այլ՝ պահենք ու պահպանենք մեր Հայ բարքերն ու հարստութիւնները՝ նեցուկ ու զօրավիթ կանգնելով Հայ Գիրին, Գրականութեան ու Մշակույթին, Հայ Դպրոցին ու Կրթութեան, եւ Հայ Եկեղեցիին (Առաքելական, Կաթողիկէ եւ Աւետարանական)։

Հայ Գիրերու Գիտը մեր դարաւոր պատմութեան մէջ դարձաւ խիստ կարեւոր անկլինադարձ մը եւ մեզի պարգեւեց Ոսկեդար մը միա՛յն, որովհետեւ այն մեր Ազգին ու ժողովուրդին կեանքին ու գիտակցութեան մէջ բացաւ զարթօնքի նոր էջ մը՝ դիմելու Բարիին, Գեղեցիկին ու Մնայունին, եւ «Ճանաչելու զիմաստութիւն եւ զխրատ, իմանալու զբանս Հանճարոյ» (Առակաց 1.3)։



Վեր. Դոկտ. Աւետիս Պոյնէրեան հովին է Հայ Աւետ. Նահատակաց Եկեղեցիին, Ութըրթաուն, Մէսէչուսէթս

Dr. Hrair Atikian

Dr. Hrair Atikian passed away on August 19, 2014 in Burbank, CA due to complications from cancer. He was 74. Hrair Atikian was a resident of Sherman Oaks for 46 years, and a prominent orthodontist in North Hollywood for more than 35 years.



Hrair was born in Kessab Syria, the youngest of eight children blessed to Hovhannes and Martha Abdulian. Two weeks after Hrair's birth, his biological mother passed away, whereupon Hrair was lovingly adopted by his maternal aunt, Efronia Atikian and her husband, Agop Atikian (a well-known chemist and schoolmaster) - whom he always warmly called "Mom and Dad." The family immigrated to the United States in 1954, settling in Boonton, New Jersey, where Hrair graduated from Boonton High School in 1958. He attended Cooper Union, where he studied mechanical engineering for two years. After witnessing a downturn in the engineering industry, Hrair redirected his academic focus and enrolled in New York University (NYU), graduating in 1962 with a major in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. He moved to Boston and graduated from Harvard Dental School in 1966 with a Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree.

In June of 1966, Hrair married Martha Bilezikian of Newton, MA. They moved to Portland, OR where he completed a post-doctorate program in Orthodontics at the University of Oregon Dental School. In 1968, Dr. Atikian opened an orthodontics practice in North Hollywood, CA. For 35 years, many local youth and adults received orthodontic treatment from Dr. Atikian.

In 1994 Hrair and Martha separated and later divorced. In 1996, Hrair married Mary (Ekmekji) Britton. They enjoyed nearly 18 years of marriage, which included travel to Kessab, Syria and other destinations. Mary lovingly cared for Hrair throughout his illness.

Dr. Atikian practiced orthodontics until late 2003, at which time he entered an early retirement and sold his practice in order to care for his 34-year old daughter, Katie, in the last months of her life as she courageously battled pancreatic cancer.

Hrair was very active in the local community, dedicating time and resources to the Armenian community and several American charitable organizations. Hrair was involved with the Kessab Educational Association (KEA) since 1969, serving as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. His other civic involvements included: the Kiwanis Club - North Hollywood Chapter from 1969-2010;

the United Armenian Congregational Church Deacons' Committee for 11 years, where he served as Chairman for 2 years; and the Merdianian Armenian School for 12 years. Hrair's 12 years of service to the Merdianian Armenian School included 5 years as Chairman.

Dr. Hrair Atikian is survived by his wife, Mary Atikian; his daughters, Caroline Atikian O'Malley and Alison Sykes; his grandchildren, Shannon Michelle O'Malley and Jack Ryan Kade O'Malley; his brothers, Misak, Daniel, and Vasken Abdulian, and their families; and his sister-in-laws, Joyce and Patsy Abdulian, and their families. Dr. Atikian was predeceased by his daughter, Katie.

A memorial service was held September 27 at the United Armenian Congregational Church, in Los Angeles. Memorial donations may be made to the Merdianian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, CA or to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Kessab, Syria Fund. □

Hilda Aynejian

Hilda Aynejian of Park Ridge, NJ went home to be with the Lord on October 26, 2014. She was born in Beirut, Lebanon to Krikor and Dzaghig Ajemian, who settled there after the Genocide. She was the third youngest of eight children.



Hilda had a strong association with the AMAA. She is the wife of the late John Aynejian who served the AMAA as an Accountant for eighteen years. She is also the mother of the AMAA's current Director of Finance, David Aynejian.

Hilda received her education at the British College for Women in Beirut, where she excelled in her studies and was fluent in Armenian, English, French, Arabic, and Turkish. After graduating high school, she came to the United States where she attended Fenn College (Cleveland State University) and received a BA in English.

In 1966 she married John Aynejian and they settled in New Jersey where they were blessed with three children who loved them very much. She was dedicated to her family, and her role as a Christian mother can be evidenced in the lives of her children. Hilda continually modelled the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) by putting others first. Those who were fortunate enough to know Hilda are witnesses of her strong faith in God and devotion to her family.

Hilda had a lifelong passion to teach. She taught English for over 40 years, along with French for a period of time, teaching at both

the middle and high school levels. She began her vocation at the British College for Women in Beirut which she attended as a student. After settling in New Jersey, she taught at Gateway Christian School in Hackensack, NJ and the Hackensack Christian School, where she taught for 10 years. She then taught at the Hovnanian Armenian School in New Milford, NJ, for 23 years. After her retirement in 2010, her former students, parents, and teachers at the School honored her with a retirement party where they dedicated the eighth grade classroom to her for her many years of service and devotion to the students and the School.

Hilda is survived by her daughter Ruth, her sons John and David, her daughter-in-law Luiza, her sister Maida Saryan, and her brothers George, John and Jimmy Ajemian.

A memorial service was held at First Baptist Church in Hackensack, NJ on October 30. □

Iskandar Istanbulian

Iskandar Istanbulian of Fresno, CA passed away on August 11, 2014 at the age of 88.

Born in historic Mousa Dag to Garabed and Iskouhi Istanbulian, he was the second of four children. His family was relocated by the French government to the relative safety of Lebanon, where the town of Anjar was established.



After the family arrived in Anjar in 1939, Iskandar's father was hired to manage the farming operations of Lebanon's Prime Minister, His Excellency Abdalla Al-Yaffi. With this position, the entire family moved to Mount Lebanon where Iskandar attended and graduated from the prestigious National College of Alep. Several of his classmates were the children of the royal families of various Middle Eastern countries. He attended the American University of Beirut and became a credentialed teacher for the National Board of Education, teaching math and science in the Arabic language. He taught in several high schools in Beirut, Lebanon, among them the Central High School, Sahagian High School and Nishan Palandjian Jemaran, where he served alongside Simon Vratsian, who served as Armenia's Prime Minister, Moushegh Ishkhan, Levon Shant and other notable Armenian scholars and educators.

After a 26 year teaching career, he moved his family to Canada in 1976 and to the United States in 1980. After moving to Fresno, CA, he purchased a sandwich shop, repurposed it into an Armenian deli and grocery store, and, with the capable assistance of his wife, ran one of the most successful Armenian delis in town, which is still in operation today. He and his wife retired in 2001.

The consummate teacher, Iskandar taught by example. He was able to demonstrate that even after being uprooted due to a brutal world war, relocated due to a cruel civil war, hard work, honesty, integrity and the love and care of family, nation and Church, will always reward those who are willing to go the extra mile.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Dzaghik, his son Garo and his wife Flora and their children, Ani and Alene, his son Rafi and his wife Helen and their children, Alex, Jiro and daughter-in-law Patricia, his son Viken and his wife Patti and their children Levon, Natalie and Armand, and his son Hovig.

The family requests that in honor of Iskandar's long career in education, donations may be made in his memory to the AMAA and designated to the AMAA's educational programs in Anjar. □

Milton K. Karahadian

Milton K. Karahadian passed away August 9, 2013 in Wilson, WY at the age of 79.

He was born in Pasadena, CA to Kay and Zephyr Karahadian. He graduated from Flintridge Prep School and attended California Polytechnic in Pomona. In high school, he began to travel to Coachella Valley to work on his father's vineyard property, Karahadian Ranches, which eventually developed into 700 acres of table grapes, date palms and citrus. Their label, Crown Hill, became synonymous with excellent quality. The ranch Milton ran with his father was pioneering in an agricultural region that today encompasses 60,000 acres under irrigation. In the late 1960s, the table grape industry was the center of widespread strikes by the labor unions, led by Cesar Chavez. These strikes had a major effect on California agriculture and presented new challenges to the industry. Milton was an integral part of the negotiations with Chavez that eventually led to union contracts between the growers and the United Farm Workers Association.

Milton had two children from a previous marriage to Barbara Hanson Karahadian. He married Kathy Medlicott in 1980 and lived in Rancho Mirage during the grape season and Newport Beach in the summer. He took flying lessons and became an instrument rated private pilot. He also enjoyed black & white, large format photography, was an avid golfer and tennis player and an accomplished, amateur jazz pianist. He retired from the farming business and moved to Jackson Hole, WY where he enjoyed western riding.

Milton was a true gentleman, a devoted husband, and a loving father and grandfather. Though never a pretentious man, he was a throw-back to a generation of good manners, "dressing for dinner" and white tablecloths. He thought that everyday living should reflect certain standards, and retain a level of sophistication.

He is survived by his two children, Kimberly and Zachery, his wife of 33 years, Kathy, her son Tony Porter (Kelly), and two grandchildren, Hudson and Zoe. □

Heghnar Kherdian Paloian

Heghnar (Helen) Kherdian Paloian was one of the few survivors left of that generation of Armenians who lived through the Genocide of 1915. She was born in 1906 in the village of Khulakugh located in the Western Armenian province of Kharpert. Her parents, Kevork and Mariam Kherdian, died when she was a young child. At the age of 108, she was the family's last link to the past.



Heghnar never knew her parents. Aunts and uncles took care of her until they were driven into exile. Two of her brothers were drafted into the Turkish army and never heard from again and a third brother eventually made his way to America but mysteriously disappeared. Her life was not just a story of pain and suffering. It was also one of survival nurtured by her deep faith in God which gave her strength and hope for the future and the will to live. In the words of the Apostle Paul, she "fought the good fight" determined to overcome the adversities of life.

Heghnar's first cousin, Hagop Kherdian Hardy, a disabled World War I veteran, was gravely ill due to war injuries and was sent to a veteran's hospital in Johnson City, TN. One of his relatives brought a copy of the Hairenik Daily, which contained names of Armenian orphans who were being kept in Corinth, Greece, to the hospital. The list included the name, Heghnar Kherdian. Upon his release from the hospital, Hagop sailed to Greece and convinced the orphanage that Heghnar was his long lost sister and that he had come to take her to the United States. They were told that to enter the United States, they first had to go to Cuba to wait for the necessary legal work to be completed, and that the easiest way to get her to the United States was to find an American citizen to marry.

In 1927, Heghnar's Uncle Hovhannes came to Havana with an Armenian man from Chicago named Zadig Paloian, who had agreed to marry her. The marriage would be annulled once she arrived in the United States. After a civil ceremony Zadig and Hovhannes returned home, but Heghnar and Hagop had to wait another year before they were able to leave Cuba. After arriving in the United States, Zadig asked Heghnar to marry him.

Zadig and Heghnar made Chicago their home. Surviving are her daughter, Lucille Paloian Ajemian, a son, Matthew Paloian and grandchildren, Jeri Lyn, Maryanne and Rob-

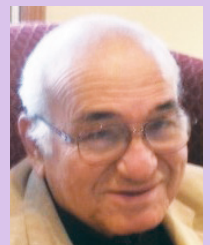
ert Ajemian, Michelle Rudden and Jennifer Anderson, and great grandchildren, Catherine and Nicholas Rudden and Julia and Matthew Anderson. Two daughters, Sima and Mariam, and grandson, John Ajemian, are deceased.

Heghnar's life is a living testimony of what it means to be a genuine Armenian, true to her Christian faith and ethnicity. She was a source of inspiration to all.

A funeral service was held October 28 at the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Chicago, IL. Presiding was her pastor, the Very Rev. Father Aren Jebejian. Participating clergy were the Rev. Fathers Yeprem Kelegian, Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan, Tavit Boyajian and Rev. Jeremy Tovmassian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Greater Chicago. □

Frederick P. Simonian

Frederick P. Simonian, long time Board and Committee member, friend and supporter of the AMAA, passed away on August 26, 2014 in Western Springs, IL at the age of 81.



Fred worked for Dial Corporation as Director of Engineering before he retired in 1997. He was a distinguished member of Who's Who Worldwide as a business leader. He was also a member of the American Oleo Chemical Society (AOCS) and consulted in this field for many years, traveling to many parts of the world.

He was a dedicated member of the Armenian community. In addition to his work for the AMAA, he also served on the Board of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA). He was a passionate member of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago in Mt. Prospect and helped to oversee the construction of their current church.

He was the beloved husband of Doris and loving father of Jackie (Chris) Snyder, Phil (Kelly) Simonian, M.D., and Cricket (Tony) Pizak. He was the devoted grandfather of Emily and Natalie Snyder, Zach and Patrick Simonian, Nicole, Jessica, Bella and Sophie Pizak. He is also survived by his sister Grace (late Haig) Seklemian and Yoland (Isaac) Malian.

A memorial service was held on September 20 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago. The Service was led by Rev. Jeremy Tovmassian, Pastor, with Rev. Fr. Tavit Boyajian of the Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Church, Palos Heights, IL, Rev. Nishan Bakalian, former Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and Pastor of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA, Joseph Zeronian, President of the AMAA, and David Hagopian, participating. □



Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Paramus, NJ
Permit No. 55

AMAA CHILD & ORPHAN CARE CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015

The Beverly Hills Hotel

CO-CHAIRS

BARBARA POLADIAN, CHRISTINE MINASIAN

CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW

COORDINATED BY

bloomingdale's / SHERMAN OAKS

MAKE YOUR CHILD A MODEL

AGES 5-18

To insure your child's participation please contact

CHRISTINE ZENJIRYAN 818-203-1398

amaafashionshow@gmail.com

Please respond by January 15, 2015

